

Cheers to 30 years

Surfing Santa rides again

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Secret Santas

Fort Erie men donate holiday meals to people in need

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Nominate a local sports hero for the Fort Erie Sports Wall of Fame. See page 54.

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A call for help



SARAH FERGUSON Fort Erie Times

Salvation Army manager Elliott Innes is asking residents to support the kettle campaign, which is the organization's biggest fundraiser of the year.

Salvation Army needs help to achieve kettle campaign goal

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

With only a few weeks left until Christmas, Fort Erie Salvation Army manager Elliott

Innes is left wondering how the organization will reach its kettle campaign goal of \$64,000. Volunteers have collected about \$27,000, which is less than half of this year's goal. The

kettle campaign continues until Christmas Eve and Innes is sending out a call out to the community for help.

"It's horrible. I never imagined that we would be at this

point," Innes said. "I don't know if people are waiting longer to make their donations or they have just been hit harder this year.

See Page 2

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'This is serious, because every year we continue to help more and more people'

From Page 1

In previous years, the kettle campaign has "always surpassed its goal" but Innes isn't sure that will happen this year.

According to Innes, the kettle campaign is the biggest fundraising campaign of the year for the organization. The organization relies on every penny it receives to assist families in need in Fort Erie.

"Our budget for next year is based on the kettle campaign," Innes said. "We

have about \$10,000 less than where we were at this point last year."

If the kettle campaign goal isn't achieved, the Salvation Army will have to cut back on its programs and services that a growing number of people have come to rely on.

Cutting back on programs could mean the difference between "a mother choosing to feed her children and not herself," according to Innes.

The Salvation Army assists 1,500 people per

month through its food security efforts. The mobile outreach unit that delivers meals to residents on Monday nights serves about 5,000 meals per year.

The Salvation Army gives about \$100,000 annually in funds to individuals in need through its utility assistance program.

The organization also provides relief efforts through its Emergency Disaster Services team.

"This program is becoming more poignant," Innes

explained.

The Salvation Army's Emergency Disaster Services Team opened the doors of the organization on Gilmore Rd., on Dec. 6 to offer coffee and water to firefighters battling a fire on Torrance St.

"This is a year round service that we offer to local first aid responders at their request."

In the case of an emergency, the Salvation Army's EDS team can be called out anywhere in North America to distribute food,

blankets, help to locate shelter, provide spiritual assistance or transportation.

Innes said the Salvation Army relies heavily on the community's support to continue to help those in need.

"This is serious because every year, we continue to help more and more people," he said.

"We know for many people that dropping a tonne or \$5 into the kettle is a sacrifice. But we don't want anyone to think for a

minute that their sacrifice isn't appreciated."

Cheques can also be dropped into the kettles.

"If you include your address with the cheque, we will mail tax receipts out at the end of the year," Innes said.

"And if you aren't able to make a donation, we still need people to volunteer for the last few days of the campaign. We need volunteers collecting at the kettles."

sarah.ferguson@summedia.ca



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ELLIOTT INNES Special to The Times

Kettle volunteer Missy Armstrong helped collect money for the Fort Erie Salvation Army's kettle campaign. The campaign concludes on Christmas Eve and help is needed to ensure the organization reaches its goal.



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Surfing Santa set to celebrate 30 years

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

As Christmas nears, John Fulton isn't thinking about his holiday shopping list.

He isn't dreaming about the delicious feast of turkey with all of the trimmings either.

That's because Fulton is focused on preparing for his annual windsurfing trip across Lake Erie from Fort Erie to the U.S. shoreline in Buffalo dressed as Santa Claus.

This is the 30th year the 55-year-old will launch his paddle board into the icy waters to make the trek in order to raise awareness for homelessness in Niagara. Fulton will attempt to make his voyage on Tuesday, Dec. 23 at 11 a.m. at Mather Park in Fort Erie.

"It gets a little harder every year. I spend about a month planning it and making sure my suit is ready," Fulton said.

"But I'll keep doing it as long as I can."

Since he began making the journey in 1985, Fulton feels he has made an impact for much of Niagara's homeless.

Fulton, who runs Fulton's Fitness in St. Catharines, said many people from around the world know him as Surfing Santa. He has been made famous by major news networks and he has been featured in many newspapers across the globe.

"I started connecting the world through this event 30 years ago," Fulton said.

"I was told by a man who lives in Mexico that he went to the bank and got a handful of cash and he gave pesos to the people who needed it. Because he had heard about me."



FILE PHOTO Fort Erie Times

John Fulton, also known as Surfing Santa, will cross the water on a paddle board from Fort Erie to the U.S. dressed as Santa Claus for the 30th time on Dec. 23.

Fulton has also received e-mails from people in the Ukraine, China and many other places that have heard

of him in the news.

Fulton "clearly remembers" the day he decided to become Surfing Santa.

"The idea popped into my head one day while I was driving," Fulton said.

"I ran to my then girl-

friend's house and I said I need a Santa suit."

With a promise to return

a 100-year-old Santa suit

that was an heirloom, Fulton set out to prepare for his first journey.

See Page 3

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FILE PHOTO Fort Erie Times
John Fulton dressed as Santa Claus last December.

It's 'been emotional'

From Page 4

Some people thought he was crazy but Fulton didn't mind.

For the first time, Fulton set sail there were only a few friends, and two photographers.

For 27 years, Fulton kept dressing up and making the journey with "a film crew and a few stragglers" who had come to watch.

But people took notice of what Fulton does each December and the Niagara Parks Commission, Niagara Helicopters and the U.S. Border Patrol have signed on to help ensure Fulton's safety.

"I can definitely say it has been emotional," Fulton said. "I've been doing this for so many years. Some people just don't understand it but it's amazing to have such support."

He isn't nervous about paddleboarding across Lake

Erie this year.

"I wear a dry suit, gloves, a dry hoodie, socks and boots, he said.

"I could scuba dive in what I am wearing and I would be fine."

Fulton said raising awareness of homelessness in Niagara has always been important to him and he encourages people to visit his web site at www.surfingsanta.com to learn more about how people can help.

"The number one need has always been socks," Fulton said.

"A lot of the guys say to me that they need more socks. But socks don't always find their way into the donation bin."

That's why Fulton has kicked off a Socks for Santa Drive.

Fulton's new iPhone game is also becoming more popular.

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca

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opinion page

SARAH FERGUSON, Editor 905-871-3100 ext. 524207

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca

MYRA ROBERTSON, Sales Manager 905-871-3100 ext. 524202

myra.robertson@sunmedia.ca

MIKE CRESSMAN, Publisher

mike.cressman@sunmedia.ca



Do You Remember?

Unfortunately, we received no calls about last week's photo of the two skaters but it is never too late to call us with your tips. If recognize these skaters, please give us a call.

If you and your family are getting together over the holidays, you might want to take another look in case you recognize either of them.

Can you spot the hockey celebrity in this week's photo or do you know the lucky child receiving his autograph?

There is a date stamp of 1981 on the back of the photo. If you remember any of these people, please call the Fort Erie Historical Museum at 905-894-5322 or e-mail us at museum@forterie.on.ca

Horned Grebes 'fly or migrate' at night, hatchlings ride on their parents' backs

Peter Bonefont of the Bert Miller Nature Club reported seeing about 30 Horned Grebes in the Niagara River at our recent monthly meeting.

Horned Grebes? Memory flashback.

It was at Tift Nature Center in South Buffalo that Ernie Giles, local naturalist, pointed to a small flotilla of Horned Grebes.

That was years ago. Last week, Rick Doan, nature photographer, and I looked for these small ducks from Niagara Christian School back to Fort Erie South.

None seen. Then later in the week, Rick

Was able to snap the Horned Grebes.

My record book, Ducks of Canada, in which I have recorded all my duck sightings since 1986 does not list any Grebes.

Why not? I don't know. I did some research



Earl Plato

Niagara you seldom see them fly.

They fly or migrate mostly at night.

Strange.

We learn that the horned and other grebes can swim and dive immediately after hatching.

I haven't seen this phenomenon—little grebe hatchlings are often seen riding on their parents' backs! Pictures any one?

My memory of the Tift Nature Center Horned Grebes were that they rode low in the water. That's true.

All grebes have a remarkable ability to control their specific gravity.

What? That means that they can swim high in the water or almost submerged! An unusual duck.

Think big. Old Fort Erieans like me remember back then our largest gull, the Herring gull.

I remember at lunch time these big gulls would congregate waiting for crumbs from the student's lunches. That was 1960.

Today the Ring-billed gulls have taken over. G o to Crystal Beach Water Front Park at times 40-50 Ring bills will be looking for a Timmy's "handout."

Smaller than our Herring gulls are the Ring-bills. Smallest of all local gulls are the graceful Bonaparte gulls.

But wait! Rick Dell took the photo below of the world's largest gull. Right here in Fort Erie!

While we visited nephew, John Piatt, who was attending Dalhousie University some years ago we stopped at Halifax Harbour.

There were large gulls there. A man next to me had binoculars. I asked what those large black back gulls were. "Those are our



A black-backed gull.

largest gull.

"The Greater Black backed gull."

He was a bird. He said to watch them. They steal from terns and smaller gulls even the Herring. They even take at times

from hawks and eagles.

One reference about this gull is telling. "merciless tyrant." Watch the few Great Black Backs on the Niagara River. Watch their behaviour this winter. "Bully for not?"

opinion page

Library staff pick their favourite reads for 2014

Titles include George R.R. Martin's *Game of Thrones*



Amy Roebuck
Fort Erie Public Library

"staff picks", our favourite fiction of the year, to add to your 'To Be Read List'.

Fiction choices range from laugh out loud funny to thrilling, and from historical novels to science fiction and fantasy.

Laura Rudynski-Martino enjoyed Marie Phillips' earlier book *Gods Behaving Badly* so much that she picked up *The Table of Less Valued Knights* as soon as it arrived.

She was not disappoint-

ed.

If you think you know the heroes and villains of King Arthur's court, think again, and find this book.

Joel Nash's pick, *The Martian* by Andy Weir, takes us into the realm of space travel and science fiction, but with a satisfyingly wry, humorous outlook.

My fiction pick this year is *Flee, Fly, Flown*, Janet Hepburn's debut novel, which tracks geriatric adventurers Lillian and Audrey in their escape from an Ottawa nursing home and their cross-country race to evade family and find meaning and independence in life.

Maria Brigantino confirms Jean Christie's ebook selection, *The Rosie Project*. Graeme Simson's bestselling delightful screwball romance is the

winner of numerous awards in the author's native Australia.

Staff-recommended titles are often award winners.

Again on Christie's recommendation, we visit Paris during the time of Edgar Degas in Cathy Marie Buchanan's *The Painted Girls*, a tale of three sisters learning to dance and struggling to survive. Buchanan's book won the Ontario Library Association's Forest of Reading Evergreen Award in a vote by readers across Canada, as well as being a *New York Times* bestseller. Craig Davidson's *Cataract City*, a Trillium Book Award winner and *Giller Prize* finalist, is Sean Fleming's pick. It is a gripping picture of life in the Niagara Falls, Ontario, that tourists do not see.

Many staff members are avid readers of thrillers.

Dawn Gangarossa is known for suggesting stories guaranteed to keep the reader awake at night, and *The Shepherd* is her fiction pick.

Questions about good and evil arise in this suspense novel by Ethan Cross, featuring hero Marcus Williams and villain Francis Ackerman.

Questions of identity and finding one's true history are a critical part of the chilling page turner *Debbie Ashworth* and I suggest, Emma Chapman's *How to be a Good Wife*. Ashworth also enjoyed *Goose* by James Patterson and Michael Lajevog.

I recommend John Verdon's four books with protagonist, Dave Gurney.

Game of Thrones is the choice of page Samantha

McLean. Enjoy this fantasy epic in many formats: George R.R. Martin's original print fiction, as an ebook, as graphic novel, or on DVDs of the television series.

You can find the staff recommendations listed here by visiting any branch.

Our web site, www.fepl.ca is great for placing holds or downloading ebooks any hour of any day, including holidays.

All branches of the library are open on Dec. 24 and 31 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

All branches are closed on Dec. 25 and 26, and Jan. 1, 2015.

Amy Roebuck is the Community Services Coordinator at the Fort Erie Public Library.

The Fort Erie Public Library, on any given day, is full of people who enjoy reading, who like to talk about what they are reading, and who like to find out what other people are reading.

Some of these people are patrons; many are employees.

In this column, I will share recommendations from staff members—the

From the gardener's journal: Aroma of cinnamon and nutmeg in the air

Waking up to snowfall and the soft lights of early morning is a reminder to me of the changing pace of our lives.

As a child growing up in Ottawa and walking a few blocks to school past many high snow banks, I was accustomed to the strong season reminders. When the ice appeared on the Rideau, everyone got ready to warm their hands while they laced ice skates.

Building huge snowmen that my dad would ice so they would last all winter and then going inside to warm up for a little while before we headed out again...these are precious memories.

To this day when I walk in the falling snow and then move inside that same feeling of well being comes to me. As do the scents of the indoors.

Often it is the aroma of cinnamon or nutmeg &

alpsice that we associate with winter and snowy days. Even now, heading out the door in a few moments I still want to stop and spend some time baking, filling the house with these warm and welcoming fragrances. And remind myself how healthy these spices are...

The tradition of "Wassail" at this season dates to the early 1800's and this punch was served on Christmas and New Year's Eve. Follows a nice little recipe you may want to try: makes about 35 to 40 servings

Baked Apples:
8 small baking apples
1 cup packed light brown sugar

1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
1/2 teaspoon allspice
1 cup brandy or equivalent

Wassail:
3 medium oranges each

cut into 8 wedges
1 tablespoon whole cloves
16 cups apple juice or fresh apple cider
2 cups cranberry juice
1/4 cup sugar
5 three inch cinnamon sticks
1 tablespoon whole allspice
2 to 2 1/2 cups dark rum (optional)

Orange slices for garnish

Baking the apples:
Preheat oven 350...core apples but leave stems. Peel a strip from around the top of each apple. Place in a large baking dish and set aside. In medium saucepan combine brown sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg and allspice. Stir in brandy or equivalent and bring to just a boil over medium heat until the sugar dissolves, stirring occasionally. Then pour mixture over apples, cover and bake for 25-30 minutes or until tender.

While the apples are baking, stud the orange wedges with cloves. Set aside. In an 8 quart saucepan, combine apple cider, cranberry juice, add the orange wedges, sugar, cinnamon sticks and allspice. Stirring constantly bring just to a boil until the sugar dissolves. Lower the heat, cover and simmer for 10 minutes. Stir in rum if desired, cover and heat through.

Strain the hot wassail into a punch or large serving bowl. Stir in sauce from apples to taste. Float the baked apples in the punch. Garnish with orange slices. Serve hot...this warms you up very nicely!!!

There are so many culinary traditions associated with Christmas and the holidays. When we lived in east Toronto many of our friends who had settled in that area were from

the Caribbean and they always shared their 'dark cake' and red sorrel at Christmas. In my husband's family the traditional shortbread and mince pies or tarts were always available. As our children grew up we tried to combine the traditions of family and friends so they would develop a fairly extensive appreciation for the many unique traditions of this season. In their own households they have developed their own style and I am happy to say, have blended a lot of traditions, always with an awareness of health and well being.

The uses of spices and herbs have brought not only flavour but health to our lives. There are many helpful and healing qualities to fresh and dried herbs and spices. I hope to include more of those in the weeks to come as

we enjoy a lot more indoor time. In our warm homes we can grow many herbs indoors and add a fresh quality to our daily lives.

This week we welcome the Winter Solstice on Sunday, December 21, the 4th Sunday of Advent. After that day we can expect the hours of daylight to increase gradually until once again the season turn warm. But in this season of reflection and sometimes chill, we can stay warm and share our warmth with friends and family.

Sending happy Christmas wishes and hopes to each and everyone of you good folk.

Until next time, Keep warm and keep growing,

Ruth Vold Markle is a member of the Fort Erie Horticulture Club. m

'When you hand them a turkey, they think that you have given them a million dollars'

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

When 88-year-old Ray Robbins delivers a turkey to a family in need he loves to see the smiles spread across their faces.

"It's tough at Christmas time for a lot of people," the Ridgeway resident said. "So it's nice to see someone smile. When you hand them a turkey they think that you have given them a million dollars."

Robbins knows first hand what it's like to struggle financially. That's why he began buying turkeys and giving them away.

"A friend of mine and I had fallen on hard times where we couldn't take care of ourselves. So we both know what it's like to struggle," Robbins said.

"About nine or 10 years ago, my friend said to me 'Let's get some turkeys and give them away.' So that's what we did."

The first year Robbins said he and his friend quietly donated about 15 turkeys



HARRY ROSETTANI Special to The Times

From left, Patrick Olsen, of the Lighthouse Diner stands with 88 year-old Ray Robbins of Ridgeway in No Frills on Garrison Rd. Saturday. Robbins has been purchasing turkeys for 10 years and giving them to people in need during the holidays. Robbins said he gives turkeys away through word-of-mouth.

and each year their donation has grown "a little more."

"We started giving out boxes of food with each turkey."

Robbins said he and his

friend, who wishes to remain anonymous, have donated secretly because they never wanted any recognition.

"I guess we've been caught," he said. "We never

wanted to be acknowledged. We do this each year because we want to give from our hearts. We've been so lucky so we want to give back some of what we have received."

This year, Robbins has delivered turkeys with all the trimmings to various churches, families and individuals all through word of mouth.

He purchases the turkeys locally at No Frills on Garrison Road. This past weekend, Robbins bought a few dozen turkeys.

"We buy all of them (the turkeys) on our own. No Frills gives us a good deal. They've been good to us that way," Robbins said.

"We are all done (purchasing turkeys) this year. When we give the last bunch out, that's the end until next year."

Store owner Jesse Edmondson said his business has offered a discount on turkeys that Robbins has purchased for the last few years.

"We do stuff, not to be recognized, but to do whatever we can for the community,"

Edmondson said. "That's what our goal is."

Kalvin Schneider, a butcher at No Frills, said Robbins purchased 34 turkeys this year.

"When you add it all up, it's about 600 pounds of turkey,"

Schneider said Robbins and his friend "just want to be nice guys" during the holidays.

"Neither of them want any credit for it," he added.

According to Schneider, the grocery store sells many turkeys to service organizations to feed people in need.

But Robbins and his friend "are the only individuals that donate turkeys on their own."

About seven of the turkeys Robbins purchased Saturday were donated to the Lighthouse Diner and Soup Kitchen at the Crystal Ridge Community Church at 241 Elmwood Ave. in Crystal Beach.

"The entire community thanks them (Robbins and his friend) for all their service to the community," Pastor Patrick Olsen said.

Members of the Crystal Ridge Community Church will serve up a free turkey dinner on Christmas Day beginning at 11 a.m.

"We will supply food and fellowship to everyone," Olsen said.

"We also have presents for children who come. It's great seeing the kids' faces because there are presents under the tree with their names on them."

According to Robbins, the need in Fort Erie is so great he could donate "about 150 turkeys and there still wouldn't be enough."

"The way I see it, at least when I sit down to eat Christmas dinner, I know someone else has got a turkey too. Maybe one was given to a father raising a family by himself, or a single mother struggling to raise her family."

Robbins will continue to purchase turkeys each year to give them away to whoever needs them most.

"If I live to be 100, I'll still be doing it," Robbins said. sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca

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Making ends meet is a daily struggle for single mom

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

Making ends meet on a daily basis is a struggle for Jessica Brown.

The 24-year-old single mom of two ensures there is food put on the table but after the rent, utilities, and car payments are made there isn't much left over for any luxuries.

With Christmas on the way, Brown is wondering whether or not there will be presents for her children underneath the Christmas tree this year.

"I did manage to get a game for my son, and I found a Monster High doll for my daughter because it was on clearance."

But Brown won't be able to buy many of the items on her children's wish list. She works an average of 40 hours a week stacking the shelves of a store on the graveyard shift to keep a roof over her family's head and food on their table.

"I'd like to be working days but there just aren't any day jobs available," Brown said.

She gets off work at 7 a.m. and is home just in time to wake her children and get them ready for school. Brown tries to catch a few hours of sleep before her children come home.

"When they get home, I make them dinner, help with their homework and get them ready for bed."

If she has time, Brown tries to catch an hour or two of sleep before she goes to work.

With her children in her thoughts, Brown has been picking up extra shifts—working 50 to 60 hours a week—just to pay for what little she can afford to put underneath the Christmas tree.

Working extra hours still is not enough. "They always say 'That's okay Mom, Santa will get us what we need' to me."

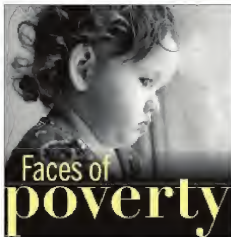
When her children say that, Brown said it motivates her to work even harder. She wants them to have a special Christmas and have the same opportunities other children have.

Brown pays about \$800 a month for rent plus utilities. Her car payment is about \$300 a month. Working on minimum wage, Brown said the money just "seems to go quick." She puts her kids first and tries to make sure all of their needs are met first before her own.

"It's not even Christmas that is difficult. It's every day of the year. I live my life from pay cheque to pay cheque trying to make ends meet and I have to scrimp on things," Brown said.

"My gas tank is close to empty. I only put \$10 to \$15 in my tank at a time and I try to make that last."

Brown said she is committed to her children and she cares for them the best she can.



"They have clothes, and they have food—it may not be exactly what they want to eat but they never go hungry."

The Crystal Beach resident wants to become a paramedic so she can help other people. The biggest hurdles in her way are time and completing high school.

"I'm obsessed with the idea of becoming a paramedic. I want to help people."

"I want to finish high school. The problem is finding the time to take courses. If I'm not working, I'm taking care of my kids, and trying to sleep when I can."

Brown knows it won't always be this difficult for

her family. But it's a vicious cycle that's difficult to climb out of.

"I think when my kids are a little bit older and don't need me as much, I will finish high school. I think I will go to college. I hope I will. Right now I need to be there for them. I get them ready each morning for school. They are so young and they still need me."

Brown's worries are never far from her mind. There is no relief in sight for her.

"I have moments where I lose it. I'll go for a walk—I'll go somewhere and scream."

But she somehow finds the strength to pick herself up and carry on.

"I want to be a good role model for my children,"

Brown said. "I'm trying to instill in my children that they need to go to school and finish. I know it's harder to find a job when you don't have Grade 12."

"I think people need to look at the hard, cold numbers. Do the math, when you look at the average costs of housing and other living expenses. The numbers just don't add up." Bridges Community Health promoter Rhonda Barron said.

"Not all people realize how difficult it is to make ends meet," Barron said.

According to Barron, the holidays are "an emotionally charged time" and it's difficult to pay for the extras when people are already having a difficult time just trying to get by.

"We need to turn the conversation back to the need for structural changes. We need a public policy and basic housing geared toward income."

The goal for social service agencies is to go out of business.

"Although they do great work, we don't want food banks," Barron said.

"We need to address to the root cause of poverty. The food banks are doing great work and people are thankful for what they can access but the charitable model doesn't work."

One of the biggest problems for people like Brown is minimum wage doesn't reflect the actual cost of living.

"A living wage takes a family into consideration and the various things we need to pay for," Barron said.

"Minimum wage doesn't take housing costs, groceries, public transportation and child care into consideration."

When people come into Bridges Community Health Centre in Fort Erie, Barron said they could learn about all of the options that are available to help them.

"First, we would want to make sure the person has filed his or her income taxes and are able to access all of the income supports available to them like the National Child Tax Benefit, HST and GST."

Barron said there is a long list for affordable housing that is geared toward a person's income but it's important that people who need it are put on the waiting list.

"Some people are spending their entire pay cheque on rent and that needs to change," she said.

"If people come in, I would also ask them if they'd be interested in cooking programs."

Barron said there are "ways to stretch a dollar" because "food tends to be the elastic band in the budget."

See Page 10

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SARAH FERGUSON Fort Erie Times

Jessica Brown, a single mom of two, finds it difficult to make ends meet working 40 hours a week, earning minimum wage.

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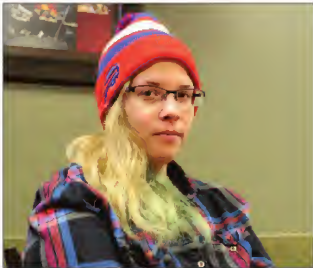
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It's 'important to start a conversation'

From Page 9

"We offer programs like Let's Get Cooking, or grocery store tours where we teach people to look for sales so they can maximize their budget because it really makes a difference. You can save up to 30% on a weekly grocery budget."

It's also important to start a conversation about making long-term plans. "People don't realize that they have options available to them. They just see the obstacles and barriers. They need to visit the idea of employment retraining."

According to manager Elliott Innes, about one third of the families the Fort Erie Salvation Army's Christmas hamper program serves are single-parent families.

"At Christmas, we provide a voucher for people to purchase their holiday meal and we provide gifts in partnership with the Kinsmen Gift of Love for children under the age of 14."

The organization also offers a food bank and utility payment assistance for people in need.

"We want people to be able to provide for their families. We exist because there is reasons in time when that's not a possibility for some. Whether it's single parents, dual parents or non-traditional families, we are going to step in where we can."

Innes admits there was a time in his life when he himself relied on the services on the Salvation Army to support his family.

"When you walk through the doors of the Salvation Army, like most social service agencies in Niagara, you are on equal footing," he said.

If people are struggling at any time of the year, Innes encourages them to call the Salvation Army for help.

"We understand what is going on. We understand what that struggle is.

Find help in Fort Erie
Bridges Community Health Centre

- 1485 Garrison Rd., Fort Erie
- The organization provides chronic illness programs, diabetes education, dietitian, health eating, support and social drop-in programs, health promotion and social work.
- For more information call 905-871-7621.

Salvation Army
• 255 Gilmore Rd., Fort Erie

- The Salvation Army offers a food bank, mobile outreach, utility assistance, a Christmas hamper program and other programs.
- For more information call 905-871-1592.

Community Program Outreach Erie
• 32 Dufferin St., Fort Erie

- COPE's food bank serves the entire Fort Erie community including Ridgeway, Crystal Beach and Stevensville.
- For more information call 905-871-2526.

Crystal Ridge Community Church
• 241 Elmwood Ave., Crystal Beach

- The Lighthouse Diner and Soup kitchen runs every Thursday from noon until 1 p.m. The Clothing depot is also open from 10 a.m. until noon. Clothing is provided free of charge to families and individuals in need.

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Peace Bridge students spread Christmas cheer

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

Peace Bridge Public School students are making the holidays bright for children in need.

"We wanted to do something nice for Christmas and buy presents for children who wouldn't otherwise have a Christmas," Peace Bridge Public School student Corrina Renshaw said.

The School's Me To We Club, which consists of students Renshaw, Isaac Sisler, Theodora Mollicone, Ethan Stevens and Allesha Noganosh, organized a school-wide Canadian Tire money drive to give children in need a special Christmas.

Me To We is an initiative through the Free the Children organization that teaches children to think not of themselves but of others in the community and around the world. Canadian Craig Kielburger founded Me To We. The organization is dedicated to encouraging young people to stand up, have their voices heard and raise money for charitable organizations that help other people.

Staff and students collected more than \$500 since the collection began on Dec. 1.

Thanks to the Me To We Club's fundraiser, about 17 children in the school's community will have a merry Christmas.

Sisler said he is proud of how his fellow classmates supported the Me To We Club's fundraiser.

"Our school is very involved in everything. It doesn't surprise me that it was so successful," he said.

Members of All Saints Anglican Church also donated to the school's fundraiser and visited the school on Monday to help wrap the presents.

To learn more about Me To We visit online at www.metowe.com.



SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

From left, Peace Bridge Public School's Me To We Club members Corrina Renshaw, Isaac Sisler and Theodora Mollicone helped organize a school-wide fundraiser to raise money to purchase Christmas presents for children in need. Absent from the photo are Me To We Club members Ethan Stevens and Allesha Noganosh.

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Polar express



SARAH FERGUSON

Fort Erie Times

Students and staff at Ridgeway Public School participated in the Polar Express Food Drive to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank. Every morning, students who donated a canned good joined the school's donation train and went from classroom to classroom collecting donations. The school has collected 50 toys and 500 canned goods. From left are Amelie Doucet, Carter Lanthier, Camden Fletcher, Bethany Halliday, Brayden Jones and Noah Fazekas.

INTERCEDE INTERNATIONAL

On Wednesday, December 3rd, Intercede International, a Fort Erie Christian faith based national mission charity, held its annual Staff and Volunteer Appreciation Night at the All Nations Mission Centre in Ridgeway.

Volunteers of the Year



Enzo Herrera Awarded 10 Year Milestone and Volunteer of the Year



Lori and Victor Alvin Awarded Intercede International Volunteer of the Year



George Kinnaird Awarded Intercede International Volunteer of the Year



Gina Herrera Awarded Intercede International Volunteer of the Year



Steve Eagles Awarded Intercede International Volunteer of the Year



Tony Hill Awarded Intercede International Volunteer of the Year



Corinne Blackwell Awarded 5 Year Volunteer Milestone



Jacob Ammer Awarded 20 Year Volunteer Milestone



Teresa Summers Awarded 5 Year Volunteer Milestone Award

A banquet was served by Brian and Jane Duggan Catering and awards were given out to all Intercede volunteers. Over the past 12 months Intercede has been blessed with many volunteers who gave of their time and talents. We appreciate Mayor Wayne Redekop's visit to show the Town's appreciation to all the Volunteers.

Altogether in 2014 our 46 volunteers contributed collectively 1500 man hours of work. Every year Intercede also recognizes certain volunteers to be our Intercede Volunteers of the Year. This year the six Intercede Volunteers of the Year were: Lori Alvin, Victor Alvin, Tony Hill, Steve Eagles, George Kinnaird, Gina Herrera.

This year four individuals were also honoured for their Milestone of Distinguished Volunteer Service Years to Intercede International. The 20 Years Milestone Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service was given to Mr. Jacob Ammer and the 10 Years Milestone Award for Distinguished Volunteer Service was given to Mr. Enzo Herrera. And the 5 Years Milestone for Distinguished Volunteer Service was given to Mr. Deryk Tilden, Ms. Teresa Summers and Ms. Corinne Blackwell.

This year Intercede Staff member Rev. Eliud Herrera was honoured with a Staff Milestone Award for his 15 years of dedicated service to worldwide missions through Intercede International.



Eliud Herrera Awarded 15 Year Staff Milestone



Lori Alvin Intercede President, Steve Eagles Chairman, Ray Summers and Fort Erie Mayor Wayne Redekop stand with Volunteers of the Year and Milestone Award Recipients

CRTC says Fort Erie station violating licence

John Law
QMI Agency Niagara

A Niagara radio station has been suspended from soliciting or receiving local advertising by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).

Fort Erie-based station CFLZ-FM 101.1, owned by Vista Radio, has been given a Dec. 18 deadline to resume local programming as per its original broadcasting licence. A decision handed down Dec. 8 states the station must broadcast a minimum of three hours of news programming per week, of which 30% (54 minutes) must be devoted to news of "direct and particular relevance to Fort Erie and the Niagara region."

CFLZ had applied to continue seeking advertising during its licence term, which ends Aug. 31, 2018.

The station's identity

changed in Sept., 2013, when it started carrying the signal of its sister station, 2day FM 105.1. It was part of the launch for 2day FM in Niagara Falls after Vista Radio purchased the stations from Halliburton Broadcasting Group Inc. Vista told the CRTC the stations "were in disrepair, understaffed, had virtually no presence in the market, and were not operating on a financially sustainable basis."

"Vista attempted to strengthen the stations' performance as separate programming services but its efforts were not successful."

Vista then relaunched 105.1 FM as a social-media-driven pop station, and rebroadcast the content on 101.1.

The CRTC states this was done "without the Commission's approval."

2day FM general manager Wendy Gray said "we don't have any comment

about this" when contacted Monday.

According to the CRTC, because none of CFLZ's programming originates with the station or is produced exclusively for the station, it is "non-compliant" with its broadcasting licence.

Vista proposed to the CRTC a minimum of six hours of local programming per year starting in Sept., 2015, eventually increasing to 42 hours in Sept., 2018.

"While acknowledging that CFLZ-FM faces financial challenges, these challenges were already present when Vista acquired the station," the decision states. "The Commission is not convinced that the applicant's proposal to temporarily reduce local programming would ensure the financial viability of the station or ensure an adequate level of local programming for residents of Fort Erie."

john.law@sunmedia.ca



ANDRE FORGET QMI Agency Niagara

The CRTC has refused a licence amendment to Fort Erie station CFLZ, barring it from soliciting or accepting local advertising because it is no longer broadcasting locally produced content.

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A lifetime dedicated to serving others in need

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

Harvey Stromme has many children and their pictures line the walls of his living room.

He said he loves all of them and can't wait to see them.

His children live in Nigeria in the communities where Stromme works as a missionary.

The 90-year-old Fort Erie resident has been travelling to Nigeria and has worked with Serving In Mission since 1966.

He left last Tuesday to spend two months working in Nigeria.

"I have many children," he said. "They all live in Africa." Stromme said he has more than 500 grandchildren.

What was meant to be short-term became a life-long ministry.

Many children came to Stromme for spiritual guidance and to learn basic skills such as how to garden, how to cook healthy meals and how to sew and to how live healthier lives.

Stromme used to stay in Nigeria for three years at a time but new laws regarding health care required Stromme to travel back to his Fort Erie home every six months to keep his health benefits. As he has grown older, Stromme spent smaller amounts of time working in Nigeria.

Author Irene Ward worked with Stromme to write his life story and his missionary work which has been captured in the book *From the Dust Bowls of the Canadian Prairies to the Parched Sahara of Africa: The Biography of Harvey Stromme*.

Missionary to Nigeria.

The book can be purchased online by visiting www.harvey-stromme.com.

The Times sat down with Stromme before he boarded a plane and travelled in the air for about 17 hours before he reached Nigeria.

Question: Do you plan on going back to do more mission work?

Answer: I think I'll wind it up this time. After 48 years it will be hard. It's hard to separate from your children.

Q: Why have you decided to retire now?

A: According to mission policy, I was supposed to retire at 65 but they have been very good to me, and very understanding to allow me to keep going.

Q: Why did you go into mission work?

A: It was the Lord working in my life. I was always very active in church in Fort Erie. I worked as a youth pastor. After a while, I felt I was long enough here. I felt the call to go into the mission field.

Q: Were you afraid the first time you left to do mission work?

A: Yes and no. I am horrified of snakes and in many missionary stories there are many snakes. I've heard snake story after snake story—even snakes hanging from chandeliers. But I gave in and faced my fear.

Q: Did you ever find yourself in a situation with a snake?

A: I have to confess; I didn't think the Lord wasn't going to



SARAH FERGUSON Fort Erie Times

Harvey Stromme, 90, is currently in Africa completing his final visit as a missionary. Author Irene Ward captured his story in a new book that was published this year.

protect me from snakes. But he did on more than one occasion.

Q: Why did you want your life's work told in your autobiography?

A: I didn't want people to write about what I have done. When I go to Africa I do it to help people. But I felt it was important to tell their story and that's why I agreed to it.

Q: Do you think you have made a difference?

A: I think so. I feel there has been a great difference since I went there the first time. Now there are schools there for education and everyone is put through a higher standard of education right up until university. These people that I have helped have gone on to become doctors, lawyers, nurses, accountants.

Q: What do you enjoy about going to Africa?

A: I enjoy the work. I enjoy showing people a better way of life and I enjoy the people. People are my business. I love their culture and their hospitality. These people are always so friendly and concerned about other people.

Q: What does a typical day look like for you in Africa?

A: I wake up every day at 4:30

a.m. and I have a long day ahead of me. By 7:30 a.m. I am out the door and I drive to where I have to go. I go to five different locations and meet with Christian groups. I meet with people of all different ages and I host lectures and bible study. We minister to about 1,000 people a day. I get home around 6:30 p.m. and I have to get my own food, and then I begin preparing five different lectures the next day.

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LETTERS TO SANTA



Mrs Screen, Ridgeway Public Grade 1 →

Dear Santa

How is Prancer, how are you. I would like a n l-pod I also would like a lap top. You are the best.

Your friend Jason

Dear Santas

How is Rudolph. How do you make the elves eat? Please can I have a gem and a monster doll. I hope you have a nice Christmas.

Love Olivia

Dear Santa:

How is Dasher? How is Blitzen? Can you please bring me a skateboard and skates? I hope you have a good christmas.

Love Hunter

Dear Santa

How is Rudolf? How do the elves make toys? Can you please bring me a minecraft. Steve Stufe for Christmas. You're the best santa.

Love Kaelyn

Dear Santa

How are the elves? How is Rudolph? Can you please bring me a real puppy? I would like a stuffed dolphin, also you're the best.

Thank you. Your Friend Ashley

Dear Santa

Do you have a dog? Can you please bring me a red puppy for Christmas an all stuff that look like your reindeers. I love you.

Love Madison

Dear Santa

How is Rudolph? How is Mrs. Claus? Can you please bring me a transformer. You are the best.

Love Alden

Dear Santa

How is Rudolph? How is Mrs. Claus? Would you please bring me a Mine Craft?

Your friend Cohen

Dear Santa

Do you like Oatmeal? Cookies? Are there reindeers? I would like a Christmas Barbie with blonde hair and a red dress. I hope you have a Happy Christmas

Love Scarlett

Dear Santa

How is Rudolph, How are the elves? Can you please bring me a real pet hamster and pencil crayons.

Thank you Santa

Love Caleb

Dear Santa

How is Rudolph? How is Mrs Claus? Can you please bring me an American doll for Christmas and can you please bring me a phone?

Love Sophia

Dear Santa

How is Blitzen. How is Comet? Can you please bring me a zipper hoodie? Can you please bring me a snow board? You are cool.

Love Carson

Dear Santa

How do you make your toys? Which cookies do you like? Can you please bring me a talking globe? I would like an track builder pieces too. Your toys are the best.

Your Friend Yan

Dear Santa

How is Rudolph? How are the elves? Can I please have a real bunny? Can I please have a skateboard? I hope you have a good Christmas.

Love Emily

Dear Santa

How are the elfs? How is Rudolph? Can you please bring me a stuffed reindeer a monster high doll? I hope you have a merry Christmas.

Love Haley

Mrs Longval, Ridgeway Public Grade 1 →

Dear Santa

How is Rudolph, How is Mrs Claus? Can you please bring me a yoshi for Christmas, you are the best Santa.

Love William.

Dear Santa

How is Rudolph? How are you Santa? Can I have a Golden Snitch necklace and a surprise? You're the best.

From Drummer

How are your reindeer

when it is Christmas. I will leave out some milk and cookies. I would like an American Doll and a monster High doll please and thank you.

Love Sidney

Dear Santa

How do the reindeer fly when it is foggy? Can I please have a La La Loopsy Baby doll? I will leave you some gingerbread cookies.

Love Anastasia

Dear Santa

How are the reindeer? Can I Please have a zoomer dog and a stuffed reindeer stuff. I will leave milk and cookies for ou. Thank you from

Your Friend Leah

Dear Santa

How are the reindeer doing. I would really like a two wheel bike. Thank you

Your Friend Kalten

Dear Santa

I like you Reindeers. I like you Santa. Would you please bring some make up? Would you bring a bracelet for my mommy. Thank you from

Your Friend Alannah

Dear Santa

How is Miss Claus? What does it feel like up there? Can I have a snow board and an iPad? Thank you from

Your Friend Whyatt

Dear Santa

How do the elves make toys? Would you please bring me a shark mania. I also would like mouse trap. Thank you

Your Friend Connor

Dear Santa

How do you get to every house? Can I please have a American Girl Doll and a pair of pants. Thank you from your friend Paige. Have a safe trip.

Paige

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LETTERS TO SANTA



Mrs Longval, Ridgeway Public Grade 1 Continued →

Dear Santa
How do the elves make all the toys. Please may I have two monster high. I will leave you cookies and milk. Thank you from

Your Friend Emma

Dear Santa
What are your reindeer doing? I would like a puppy and American Girl Doll. I hope you are ok. Thank you from

Your Friend Savana

Dear Santa
How do the elves make toys? Would you please bring me a two wheeler bike. I would like a PS4. Thank you

From Lukey.

Dear Santa
How is the North Pole? I would like new boots. I would also like Monster high doll. I've been good all year. Thank you from

Your Friend Mya

Dear Santa
I've been good all year. How is Mrs. Claus? How do the elves make the toys. I want an iPod for Christmas and an iPad. I will leave a snack for you. Thank you from

Your Friend Weston.

Mrs Renshaw Garrison Road School Grade 1 →

Dear Santa
How do the elves make all the toys? I would like Zombie City and Fyrb and headphones and bike please. I have been good all year.

Brice,

Dear Santa
How are the reindeer, would you bring me an American doll and a guitar. I will leave you cookies.

From Makenna

Dear Santa
My name is Montanna, I am six, How do you fit in the Chimney, For Christmas I want a Monster High microphone and a guitar.

Love Montanna

Dear Santa
I like to color, How do you eat all the cookies? I would like an xbox 360, Merry Christmas

Daniel

Dear Santa
My Name is Jack. I like to go to school, How do you know if we are good or bad. For Christmas I would like batman toys.

From Jack

Dear Santa
My name is Brady and I like to color. How do you eat all the cookies without waking us up. I would like an animal eel, an iPod and xbox 360. Merry Christmas

From Brady

Dear Santa
I am 6, My name is Ayden, Is someone 6 or 7 in the North Pole? I want a PS5, PS4 and an xbox 360. That is all.

From Ayden

Dear Santa
My name is Hannah. I like to color. What is Miss Clause real name. When do you make the presents. For Christmas can I have a microphone and a doll.

From Hannah

Dear Santa
My name is Alexis. I have puppies. Please can I have coloring bookies. Can I have puppy toys. Can I have an iPod. Why do you live at the North Pole.

Love Alexis

Dear Santa
My name is Carter. I like to play baseball. How did you become Santa. When do you talk to the elves. For Christmas I want a Ben 10. Merry Christmas

From Carter

Dear Santa
My name is Haillie I like to stand by the Christmas tree and wait to see if you are coming every day. Santa, how do you make the gifts. For Christmas I would like a webcam Panda. Merry Christmas

From Haillie

Dear Santa Claus
My name is Marissa I love to sing. How do you go in the house when the children are sleeping. For Christmas I would love an American Girl.

Love Marissa

Dear Santa
My name is Maiya. I love you Santa Claus. Why do you have a red suit? For Christmas I would like an Elf on the shelf and a microphone.

Love Maiya

Dear Santa
My name is Seth I am 6 years old. I play with my sister and my friend Bobby. How do you have reindeer that fly? For Christmas, I would like Skywalker's toy force for W. Alia. I would like the glitter hot head because there is none at the store so maybe your elf can make more.

From Seth

Dear Santa
My name is Evelyn. I am 6 years old. I live in Fort Erie. How were you born? How did you become Santa Claus? For Christmas I would like a jenga game and a Frozen Castle.

Love Evelyn

Dear Santa
My name is Bobby. I am 6 years old. My friends names are Seth, Kennedy, Joseph, and Alyssa. How do you take the presents to all the kids? For Christmas, I would like a Mask.

From Bobby

Dear Santa
My name is Caleb, I am 6 years old. How do you fit in the chimney? For Christmas I would like a bell and an iPod. Merry Christmas

From Caleb



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LETTERS TO SANTA



Mrs Renshaw Garrison Road School Grade 1 cont'd →

Ms Vahrmeyer Garrison Road School French Immersion Grade 1 →

Dear Santa

My name is Maddox, I'm 6 years old. I have an older sister. My favourite sport is soccer. I play it in the summer. How did you become Santa. How do you fit in the Chimney. For Christmas, I would like Skylanders trap team please.

From Maddox

Dear Santa

My name is Eva, I have a brother and pete. I take ballet and tap dance classes. How do you give all the children presents? For Christmas I would like a Baby American Doll. Also, maybe the doll and crib, clothes too. Merry Christmas

From Eva

Dear Santa

Thank you for the elves. Can I please have a lego set. Have a Merry Christmas

From Karsten

Dear Santa

Thank you for the Elf. Can I please have a dog. Merry Christmas

From Brook

Dear Santa

Thank you for the Hongre Hongre Hippo. Can I please have a Loes and cones phrol bakes. Have a Merry Christmas!

From Joey

Dear Santa

Thank you for the blocks. Can I please have some more blocks. Have a Merry Christmas

From Tristan

Dear Santa

Thank you for the Elves. May I please have some Lego. Have a merry Christmas

Love Tanner

Dear Santa

Thank you for the catie Can I please have a small camper Have a Merry Christmas

Olivia P

Dear Santa

Thank you for watching over me. Can I please have a la la loopsie doll.

From Mae Kim

Dear Santa

Thank you Santa. Can I please have a roller blades. Have a Merry Christmas

From Olivia S

Dear Santa

Thank you for the present. Can I please have lagoon, Have a Merry Christmas

From Jack

Dear Santa

Thank you for the elves. Can I please have a camel. Have a Merry Christmas

From Noah

Dear Santa

I love you Thank you for the Elf, Can I please have a Dog Merry Christmas

From Mifayia

Dear Santa

Thank you for the elf. Can I please have a Merry Christmas

From Ariella

Dear Santa

I love you. Thank you for the elf. Can I please have a phone and a 3dx have a Merry Christmas

From Austyn

Dear Santa

How are you? How do your elves make toys? I would like play doh transformers for Christmas also spiderman stuff. Tell the elves it was the night before Christmas.

Love Braydyn

Dear Santa

How are you? Howie Rudolph? I have been helping my dad. I would like a U.F. O. for Christmas. I want minecrafft too. Tell Mrs. Clause that I said Hi. Thank you.

Love Jordan

Dear Santa

How are you? I would like a lego Skunk. I have been a good boy because I clean my room. I would like a snow walker. Thank you

Love Eidan

Dear Santa

How are the reindeer? Can I please have a Choo Choo train? I have been good. How are the elves? Are they good? Merry Christmas Santa, Mrs Clause and everyone at the North Pole.

Love Jamie

Dear Santa

How are the Reinders today? How do you go down the chimney? How is Santa? I would like a piano and barbies for Christmas

Love Summer

Dear Santa

How are you Peeling? How are your reindeers. I would like a Barbie life in the dream house and a art cart too. I have been a good helper because I helped mommy. Merry Christmas Santa.

Grace K.

Dear Santa

How are you, and Mrs Claus doing. How are the reindeer and elves? I been a good boy all year. For Christmas I want a punching bag, a jack in the box and elf on the shelf and robot dog. I hope you be safe when you go into people's houses.

Love Kyle

Dear Santa

How is Mrs Clause? How do the reindeers fly? I have been good at school and at home. I would like a easy oven, a lego set an more paper to do art with. Thank you

Love Kelly

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LETTERS TO SANTA



Mr Piatt, Peace Bridge Public School Grade 1 Continued →

Dear Santa My name is Alex. I am in Grade 1. I go to Peace Bridge Public School. I have been a very good boy., I would like a xbox

Love Alex

Dear Santa My name is Kali I am in Grade 1. I go to Peace Bridge Public School. I have been a very good boy I would like a Monster High

Love Kali

Dear Santa My name is Kevin. I am in Grade 1. I go to Peace Bridge Public School. I have been a very good boy I would like a Lego ninja Turtle

Love Kevin

Dear Santa My name is Daniel. I am in Grade 1. I go to Peace Bridge Public School. I have been a very good boy I would like a Tod's

Love Daniel

Mrs Cameron, Peace Bridge Public School Grade 1 →

Dear Santa My name is Bruyere I am in Grade 1. I go to Peace Bridge Public School. I have been a very good girl., I would like a Monster High

Love Bruyere

Dear Santa How are you and Mrs. Claus the reindeer and the elfs? I have been a very good boy this year and I would like a nort gun and lego, Ninga go, Ninja droids and a owl beanie boo. I like to play soccer and piano. I like Art. Merry Christmas

From Gregory

Dear Santa Thank you for bringin me presents. I have been good. May I please have a ps4 and a bat man 3. I like foot ball and hockey and I am six years old. Merry Christmas Santa.

From Bridget

Dear Santa How are you doing and the rest of the gang. Thank you for all the presents and elds last year. This year I am still being good can I please have a go and a puppy . I love hip hop and break dance.

Love Chloe

Dear Santa Claus How are you and Mrs. Claus and the Reindeers. I am so excited for Christmas. May I please have a book shelf at home and a desk for my homework. I usually make. I will leave you some cookies and milk and some carrots for the reindeers. As school I like to do Math and Science I like Gymnastics.

Love Brandon

Dear Santa How are you and Mrs. Claus and the Reindeers. I am so excited for Christmas. May I please have a book shelf at home and a desk for my homework. I usually make. I will leave you some cookies and milk and some carrots for the reindeers. As school I like to do Math and Science I like Gymnastics.

From Kayleigh

Dear Santa How was your year? How is Mrs. Claus and you? I have been very good this year can I get a stuffed koala please. I like to draw and do crafts and play hide-and-seek. Merry Christmas Santa

Sincerely Marika

Dear Santa How are you doing? How is Mrs. Claus and the reindeer? I am so excited for Christmas this year! I love to play with different shapes. Would you be able to bring me 3d shapes to play with? Merry Christmas.

Zoe

Dear Santa I hope your reindeer are doing a good job. Santa can I please have a mine craft book? Can I have a new little army man?

Love Gabriel

Dear Santa How was your weekend and on Christmas I want a lego star ward and lego ninja go.

Skyler

Dear Santa Are your reindeers healthy? I would like a game transformers 3 in 1. Santa do you get stuck in the chimney. Santa don't you shave your beard?

Love from Devin

Dear Santa How were all of your cookies and milk last Christmas. Can I please leave a stable open and my own elf to watch other kids. I also want a robot elf.

From Tait

Dear Santa I have been a good girl this year. How are the reindeer and Mrs. Claus. How are you Santa? I would like some ever after high and Monster High. And a go dog. As school I like to do my home work. I like to do hip hop and tennis. I hope you have a happy Christmas.

Love Brooklyn

Dear Santa What have you been doing? Who is nice, I would like to have a toy. I want a toy robot. I like what you give to us.

Love Hannah

Dear Santa I have bin a good good girl. How are you at the North pole and how is the reindeer. Can you get me some rolr blades, Scar pies and a sturt dug pies have a good Christmas. Santa

Love Hayli

Dear Santa How are you? I want a dog poster and art supplies and picachue 2 and a stuff elf and monster high and make up kit. Merry Christmas

Love Mackenzie

Dear Santa How are you doing? Are the Elvies working hard? I have been a very good boy. May I please have the lego ninga go the golden ninga out and colo's Earth drillor and the ninga's house. I like to play soccer.

Love Ridwan

Dear Santa How are you doing? I hope you had a great year. I have been a very good girl. My name is Jaslynn. May I have a new Berry doll and Can I have a Lodge Friends set. And Thank you and have a Merry Christmas.

Love Jaslynn

Dear Santa How are you doing? How is Mrs. Claus and the Reindeer. I am so excited. I have been a very very good girl this year. I like to do art and gym. I like to play soccer. I would like a glitzzy glob and gummy bear maker.

Love Bianca

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LETTERS TO SANTA



Mrs. Cameron, Peace Bridge Public School Grade 1 Continued, Stevensville Public School Grade 1 →

Dear Santa

How are you doing? How is Mrs Claus and the Elves and the Reindeers doing. I have been a very very good boy . Here is what I want, a Lego Ninja go and skate board and I will leave cookies and mile for you and a Go Go and four new Ninja Turtles.

Love Hunter

Dear Santa

My name is Kai. I am six years old. I am in grade 1 at Stevensville P.S. Is Rudolph yer faibririt reindeer? Can you please give me skyfpndrz trap team. I like you Santa

By Kai

Dear Santa

My name is Danny. I am 6 years old. I am in grade 1 at Stevensville P.S. I like your reindeer Roodof xoooooooooo. I wood like a toy Roodof that blinks his eyes and moves his legs and blinks his nose. I love you.

Love Danny

Dear Santa

My amme is Matthew. I am six years old. I am in grade 1 at Stevensville p.s. Wut is your favrit reindeer? How do you bring the presents? Do you have a christmas tree? Can I have a rocket? I like the presents you give me

Love Matthew

Dear Santa

My name is Kaiden. I am six years old. I am in grade 1 at Stevensville P.S. Is your elf happy? Please can I have a snow board and a coat and boots. You are awesome

From Kaiden

Dear Santa

My name is Carter. I am 6 years old. I am in grade 1 at Stevensville P.S. Why duz your elfs wrk so hard. Please could I have an Ipod and all the minecraft sets. I like your elves.

Love Carter

Dear Santa

My name is Syaney. I am 6 years old. I am in grade 1 at Stevensville P.S. Do you like Rudolph? Pease can I have a baking thing that is red. I will bring cookies.

Love Syaney.

My name is Deana.

I am 6 years old. I am in grade 1 at Stevensville p.s. How are your rander doing? Can I have Elsa and Anna ? And a rudolph stuffed animal? Xoxox

Love Deana

Dear Santa

My name is Natalie. I am six year old. I am in grade one at Stevensville P.S. Wich elf is the best? Please can I have a Ipod. Santa you are niys.

From Natalie

Dear Santa

My name is Carleigh. I am 6 years old. I am in grade 1 at Stevensville P.S. Xoxox Who is your favorite elf? Plez can I have a cat? Can I have a cookie. I love you santa

Love Carleigh

Dear Santa

My name is James. I am 5 years old. I am in grade 1 at Stevensville p.s. Wut are your reindeers names? Please can I have a lego star wars set and x-box 360

from James

Dear Santa

My name is Reid. I am 6 years old. I am in grade 1 at Stevensville p.s. Is rudolph your favourite? Please can I have x box 360. I will leave you a chocolate chip muffin.

Love Reid ooooooooo

Dear Santa

My name is Katelyn. I am six years old. I am in grade 1 at Stevensville P.S. Do you like living in the North Pole? I love you Santa. Please can I have a violin and a sled.

Love Katelyn! Xoxoxox

Dear Santa

My name is Maison. I am six years old. I am in grade 1 at Stevensville P.S. Please can I have a choowawa and a stack of beanie boos. Santa what is your favorite reinder? Santa I will give you cookies.

Love Madison

Dear Santa

My name is Paige. I am six years old. I am in grade 1 at Stevensville P.S. How are your elfs? Please can I have an I Pod and a rel horse and a app card and sum snowboarding stuf

Love Paige xoxo

Dear Santa

My name is Willem. I am six years old. I am in grade 1 at Stevensville P.S. Who is your favort elf? I wud like the lego star wars. Please can I have a x-wing and a nerf drone. I like you

Willem

Dear Santa,

My name is Megan. I am 6 years old. I am in grade 1 at Stevensville P.S. How much elfs do you hav? Plez can I hav Elsa and anna dolls.I love you Santa

From Megan

Dear Santa,

My name is Wyatt. I am 6 years old. I am in grade 1 at Stevensville P.S. Why do you like cookies? Please can I have skylander trap team. I will leave you Gingerbread.

Love Wyatt. Xoxox

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LETTERS TO SANTA



Mrs. Damiano's, Our Lady of Victory Grade 1 →

Dear Santa
Who do you live with? I would like a Frozen and can I have a Barbie and can I have Ciozi, and can I have a Draw and can I have mnel.

Love Ella B

Dear Santa
Hello, remember when me and my elster wrote you and letter to you and you wrote a letter back to us, we still have it we did not throw it out yet. Do you know how your reindeers fly? Can you places tell me.

Love Patrick.

Dear Santa
For Christmas I want a col robot. I got my Christmas tree up. I have an elf for you and a callot for your rander.

Love Kalen

Dear Santa
I have a cooce for you and yor radeer. Ilef a canit for yor redeer. Santa I want from you a Banmil dall.

Love Maria

Dear Santa
Will you have a grate Chirmas. How old are you? Wo do you live with? Will you come and see me? Merry Chirmas

Love Jessica

Dear Santa
I have three elfs that live in my house and I would give you some cooces and carite and for chirmas I would like a foot massage but it is cold for the best foot massag.

Love Paige.

Dear Santa
I will like to ask you sutthing. Do the reinder polli your chery. My elf name is Cleedy. I would like a Bapyreander

Love Dante

Dear Santa
How are the Elfs How are you doing? I would like a monster high doll. My vare own fone and I believe you.

Love Nicole.

Dear Santa
Can you get me a aetec musaehe and how old is baby Jesus? And can I have Starlight. I don't have an elf. What does the North Pole look like.

Love Athena

Dear Santa
I will leave you cookies. When are you coming to my house. I would like a pet dog.

Love Mateo

Dear Santa. I will leave a coke and a karrr for you. I will like a trok for Chresmas. Does it snow a lot in the north poll.

Love Richie

Dear Santa
When you come to my house I will leave you cooces. What I want for Chirmas is a tablet. Merer Christmas Santa

Love Oliver

Mrs. Martine, Our Lady of Victory Grade 1 →

Dear Santa
I put my tree up and the orntimes for Christmas. I am getting in American girl doll and a boy one too. I like prases because it is fun to please them and fun to run and play. Are you getting ready for Christmas Santa?

Love Sara R

Dear Santa
I want a prutind Elf on the Shelf. I do want a doll. I want a Moerbiy Doll a toy gine pig. A gams bar maker. A searv onis. A frendlyng huggis. A dog. A makop set.

Love Alexis

Dear Santa
When you come to my hous I will leave you mild and cookee. I would like a rasecar. What does the northpole look like

Love Brentin

Dear Santa
Do you get vare hot with that suet. Can you aper? I love Christmas. For Christmas I want a so cool maker. Loratta is vary fun. I love you!

Love Reagan

Dear Santa
I have an Elf on the Shelf

From your little friend

Dear Santa
I want a tablit and a rocking out girt

Love Landon

Dear Santa
I wot a big Dol Hows > I remember I saw you last Crismis. And saw rooboo. I loves you Santa. My mom is Abigail

Love Abigail

Dear Santa
How does Mrs Claus Feel. Is the Reindeer Gud or Bad.

Your Friend Mollee M.

Dear Santa
I love you. I want a star four Christmas

Love Faith

Dear Santa I want a tablit and a book. How is Mrs. Clause

Love Skylar

Dear Santa I want a toy for Christmas From your friend

Willy K.

Dear Santa
How is Rudolph doing? I want a drum set

Your Friend Seth

Dear Santa I love Peace and how is Mrs. Clause. And I want a toy monster hie set and Rudolph toy. I love you

Bellah

Dear Santa
I love Santa Claus and I love Mrs Claus too and I love Rudolph

Your Friend Tayler G.

Dear Santa I will give you cookes. and I want Frozen toys

Love Chloe

Dear Santa
When is Mrs. Clause Birthday? All I want for Christmas is Peacu in the World. Wen is your birthday. Love your friend

Enza

Dear Santa
I would like a tablit for Christmas

Love Emma M.

Dear Santa
How are you. I wel get you Kucyes wen it's crismas on mi plat. Your fead

Danny A.



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LETTERS TO SANTA



Ms Martins, Our Lady of Victory Grade 1 Continued →

Dear Santa

I want a elctric gitar.
And I want a spekr
and drms.

Love Joey

Dear Santa

I want for Chrismas lego,
lego batman, a bat, A
little batman a little bear

Love Jaysson

Dear Santa

Christmas is abt Jesus. I
would like a Elsa dol and a
Ana dol and a olaf dol. How
is Rudolph doing?

Love Kylie S.

Dear Santa

Santa do you sing? I like
Peace Santa. I would like a
frozen dol. I love Rudolph

Your friend Genesis

Dear Santa

Is Rudolf red?
Ples can I have a Tablit
for Chrismas.

Love Samuel

Mrs Willett's, Our Lady of Victory Grade 1 →

Dear Santa

I want some outside
things. Marry Christmas
to santa

Your friend Cohen H

Dear Santa

I would like a dolly and
a toy box. I love you

from Payton

Dear Santa

Do you have a self Ruders to pill your staff?
What is your fav. colour? Can you please bring
a tablet. How are you feeling. What are you
doing at the north pole? What do you eat for
Christmas. Love you Santa. Can I have an
Ile Boley. Can I have a Jery. Van I have macup
can have a Christmas Sode. Can I have a loof
bal. Can I have a table. Can I have a Sile Pie

Love Keighan

Dear Santa

Merry Christmas Santa
I am 6. I like to open
presents. How do your
reindeer fly. I wold like a stick
on moustach.

Love Josiah

Dear Santa

Are you being good?
I want a I pad. I am
good I want a remote
control.

Love Holden

Dear Santa

Do you dend the readers.
I want Hello Kitty, Elsa
Sleeps, Santa Slid Bed,
baby, Elsa I pad and Elsa
Slouping bag

Love Sheridan

Dear Santa

Are you randeer ok.
What is your favorite
color.

Can I have an Elsa Doll

Love Bella

Dear Santa

What is your favorite colour. How
are you feeling. Where does your
reindeers sleep. How do you fly in
the sled with all the presents.
Can I please get a zoomer dino. How
do you soo fast? Why doesn't Mrs
Olson come with you.

Love Linkyn

Dear Santa

What I want is a book with a box
origami. I want a book that my
sister made it for. I want to be
the milk and cocoa. I want to be
a little. I will like a Gie in the dark. I want
to be the. I want to be the. I want to be the.
I want to be the. I want to be the. I want to be the.

Love Layla

Dear Santa

How are you doing? I
want for Christmas is an I
pad and Amrken Doll. A
Elsa doll and Anna Doll

Love Taylor

Dear Santa

Are you randeer feeling
good. Are you feeling
good. Can I have a baby
reindeer. My name Ido
Dyker and how is Mrs
Olson is she feeling good.

Love Ryker

Dear Santa

Can I have a amairon doll. I
want a Pike Jeep I want a cas
op thinis. Is my off the shelf
good? I want a cupster? I want a
gearf. I want a toy basket. I like
want a make up set.

Love Clair

Dear Santa

Are you feeling good?
Can you get me a baby
alive? Did you like my
cookies?

Love Halle

Dear Santa

How are you? I like you radar
feeling Good. I am Gavin. I
want a thing that has pawns
I am 6. Can you make me
one. My Techro name is Mrs.
Willett I want like a xbox. And
microfat.

Love Gavin

Dear Santa

Are you feeling good.
I want for Christmas
a lego set.
My nam is Devon

Love Devon

Dear Santa

I want a monster high
doll. I love santas
reindeer. I love god. I
want a microfon. I want
a tablet. I want a apron.

Love Alannah

Dear Santa

I wot a I pad. I wot a
zoomer dino.
I love you.

Christopher L.

Dear Santa

What are you doing in the
North Pole. Can you get
me Pokomon cards, legos
and wil jam. How are your
reindeer and olives. I hop
you like chocolate.

Love Matthew

Dear Santa

I wot a red geep for
me and a green geep
for my brothr.
How is Rudolph.

Love Andree

Dear Santa

Are you Randeer
feeling good. I would
like Pokomon cards for
Christmas and Logo's I am
6 years old and I swim at
the YMCA.

Love Seamus

Dear Santa

What do you do? Why do
you deliver presents. Can
you please get me a lego set
and a xbox and minikraft.
Where do your reinder go?
I sleep in my bed.

Love Josi

Dear Santa

What do you war to
bed? How do you mke
all the prsts. Where did
you rid the erambran.

From Jillian

Dear Santa

Is your Radr feeling
good. I love you santa
and your radr. I like a
Elsa Doll

Love Lauren.

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Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year

from the Staff at The Fort Erie Times

Helping others at Christmas



SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

Students at St. George Catholic Elementary School filled about 40 boxes with canned goods which will be donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank. Mrs. Jacobi's Grade 5 class organized the school-wide fundraiser.



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December 29 & 30: 4 pm to 9 pm • December 31: 5 pm to 10 pm
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Cop rescues abducted girls

A Niagara Regional Police officer is being credited with rescuing two young girls who were abducted from Fort Erie.

An Amber Alert was issued shortly before 4 a.m. Saturday after Niagara Regional Police were told the girls—ages three and five—had failed to return to their grandmother's home in Fort Erie late Friday afternoon.

The alert included a description of the vehicle in which the girls were believed to be travelling, said NRP Sgt. Chris Stewart.

Less than three hours after the alert was issued, Const. Drew Scobie spotted the vehicle in the parking lot of a Niagara Falls motel. The girls, who were found inside a motel room with their mother, were returned to their father without incident.

The Amber Alert, which included a photo of the girls and their mother, was shared with news outlets and on social media.

A tweet by Amber Alert Ontario was re-tweeted

nearly 500 times and media bulletins were shared multiple times via Facebook.

"It reaffirmed to me that social media is an incredible way to get the message out there," he said.

The girls' mother, a 29-year-old Niagara Falls resident, was taken into police custody. Charges have not yet been laid and the investigation continues.

Speeder tells cops he drank 'way too much'

A man who told police he

had "way too much" to drink when pulled over for speeding is among a number of people caught for impaired driving at RIDGE checkpoints in Niagara Saturday night.

The man passed a marked police cruiser driving 40 km/h over the posted speed limit. He provided breath samples registering 2 1/2 times the legal limit of alcohol, Niagara Regional Police said in a news release.

As part of the ongoing Festive RIDGE campaign, police first set up RIDGE in Vineland and then moved to the St. Catharines/Niagara-on-the-Lake border.

Over the evening, about 350 vehicles were checked. As a

result, one driver was arrested for impaired driving and 25 other drivers were required to provide breath samples into a roadside screen device.

Of the drivers tested at roadside, seven were given three-day licence suspensions, one G2 driver had their licence suspended for having a blood-alcohol level above zero, and one driver was charged with refusing to provide a breath sample. The driver charged with refusal was also charged with breaching his probation order.

Police said officers were alerted to see two of the drivers issued three-day sus-

pensions for registering an "alert" (warn) on the roadside screening device had completely sober licensed passengers in their vehicle.

There is never a need to drive a vehicle after drinking and it makes even less sense when there is a sober driver in the vehicle. Never risk your life by getting into a vehicle with a driver that has been drinking police said.

The Festive RIDGE campaign will continue through the holiday season.

Said Police: Please don't ruin your own, or an innocent victim's, Christmas by drinking and driving. A few drinks are not worth ruining, or ending, a life.



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Saturday, November 29
Sunday, November 30
Monday, December 1
10am-7pm
11am-5pm
10am-7pm

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100

100

Age Group	Percentage of Respondents
18-29	85%
30-49	80%
50-69	75%
70+	70%

Presents for sick kids



MALLORY MILTON Special to The Times

Stevensville Public School staff recently held their annual Christmas party. Teachers were encouraged to purchase an unwrapped toy and donate it to McMaster Children's Hospital where it will be delivered to sick children on Christmas Day. Teachers at Stevensville Public School donated 75 toys to the hospital.

**Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year**
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HOLIDAY WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES



HOLIDAY CHANGES IN WASTE COLLECTION

Garbage, recycling and Green Bin collection will be deferred by one day in the week following Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Regular Waste Collection Day	Changed to:
Monday, Dec. 22	No change
Tuesday, Dec. 23	No change
Wednesday, Dec. 24	No change
Thursday, Dec. 25	Friday, Dec. 26
Friday, Dec. 26	Saturday, Dec. 27
Monday, Dec. 29	No Change
Tuesday, Dec. 30	No Change
Wednesday, Dec. 31	No Change
Thursday, Jan. 1	Friday, Jan. 2
Friday, Jan. 2	Saturday, Jan. 3



HOLIDAY GARBAGE EXEMPTIONS

In the week following Christmas (Dec. 26, 27, 29, 30, 31), households may place double their regular weekly garbage limit to the curb on their collection day.



CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

- Saturday, Jan. 10, 2015 ONLY
- Christmas trees must be at the curb by 7 a.m.
- Remove all ornaments and decorations
- Christmas trees wrapped in plastic or buried in snow will not be collected. No artificial trees.

www.niagararegion.ca/waste
Waste Info-Line 905-356-4141
or toll-free: 1-800-594-5542

Niagara Region

Sharing a message of peace



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL Special to The Times

The Stevensville Black Creek Lions Club recently held its annual Peace Poster contest. This year's theme which was Peace, Love, and Understanding allowed students to express their creativity in many ways. St. Joseph School student Valerie Brunning was awarded a certificate of merit by District Governor for her detailed poster. Valerie also received two cheques from the Lion's Club for her submission. From left are Principal Lorrie MacKenzie, Lions Club member Ruth Watts, student Valerie Brunning, and Lions Club member Ted Watts.

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EMS: Suited paramedics shouldn't cause panic

Don Fraser
OMI Agency Niagara

It appears like a scene from the *The Andromeda Strain* movie.

Ambulance sirens ring through your neighbourhood. Ten minutes later, you peek outside to see Niagara Emergency Medical Service paramedics suited head to toe in white personal protective equipment.

Donning gowns, face masks, boots and coveralls, they trudge into a neighbour's home.

Do not be alarmed, warns the EMS.

That gear is used more frequently these days as paramedic teams become better equipped to deal with infection control, biohazards and chemical spills. Calls to patients undergoing

chemotherapy can require a full-protection response, too.

But that gowning-up scenario can create anxiety in some patients and bystanders, a recent Internet EMS staff survey noted.

At a media event Monday, EMS showcased the gear — ramped up according to the risk of the call — and assured people the protective situation they see may not necessarily be grave.

Increasingly, patients are choosing to take intravenous cancer treatment at home, said Niagara EMS director Kevin Smith.

"Recently in Niagara, one of the bigger issues we have is patients receiving home chemotherapy," he said at the Niagara EMS base and training centre in St. Catharines. "Medications used in home chemo are

extremely dangerous when spilled or exposed.

"We need to be sure we protect ourselves, the patient and the broader community."

Smith said patients receiving home chemo can help by placing a medication warning sign on the window. That display is provided with each home kit.

Other precautions paramedics take range from routine ones with hand-sanitizers, gloves and goggles, to using masks and eye protection when facing a whooping cough or meningitis call.

Influenza, chemotherapy and Ebola-flagged concerns require levels of full body coverage that can take 10 to 15 minutes to put on. That's to protect the patient, the paramedic and anyone else they come into contact with.

Smith said the hazard in any health-care setting is exposure to things like blood, saliva and other bodily fluids. Droplets in the air can carry infectious materials, too.

Paramedics base their response on the symptoms or illness the patient in a call has.

"People in the community see the responding paramedic donned in this protective equipment, and it can cause concern," Smith said. "That's in the light of outbreak situations and fear of it coming to Niagara. In fact... it could be for a number of (other) reasons."

Niagara EMS training superintendent Dean Casement said it's usually only the highest level of protection that can require up to 15 minutes to suit up for.

That can also mean a short delay in responding to an emergency scene while that takes place.

How often do these highest-protection scenarios happen in Niagara?

Reporters were told it's infrequent — however, paramedics responded to two of them last weekend in the



DON FRASER OMI Agency Niagara
Niagara EMS gave a look at what protective gear EMS workers have to use when dealing with the public each day. St. Catharines. Paramedic: Rob Law demonstrates what full gear looks like.

region.
"These chemotherapy calls are usually if somebody fell and broke the (IV) bottle," Casement said. "It's usually around some other medical problem.
"If it's just a spill, home care usually comes in and they are the ones that have to come in and clean it up," don.fraser@sunmedia.ca

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Wednesday December 31
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Niagara Falls
Monday December 29
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Wednesday:	4 pm to 7 pm
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HOLIDAY HOURS

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Business owner wants to create community hub

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

Business owner Sonya Frammartino is optimistic about the future of downtown Bridgeburg.

"Jarvis St. is struggling and some people say it's not the place to start a business but I disagree," Frammartino said.

But when she lost her job, Frammartino decided the time was right to open her own store.

"My husband and I always dreamed about opening a family business, and that's what we did," she said. "We wanted to start a place to bring the community together."

Frammartino has always been interested in craft making and creates her own handmade jewelry.

"I realized it would be awesome to have a place to buy arts and crafts all year round."

The owner of Sonya's Artisan Shop who opened her store in October, said she thinks there are many possi-

bilities to improve the downtown.

"I think it will take time, but I think we can build something."

She wants to open her newly created business to experienced and fledgling artists and musicians to play music, sell their artwork and create a downtown hub for entertainment. Frammartino said she thinks Bridgeburg can offer an artisan market with live entertainment just like Port Colborne or Niagara-on-the-Lake residents have. She has even hosted a few open mic nights, offering up a chance for young musicians to play in an intimate setting.

"My dream has always been to foster an environment that is inviting, where people can share their art," she said.

"I think we need to provide opportunities for artists to represent themselves and share their skills."

Frammartino encourages artists and musicians to contact her through her store's

Facebook page for an opportunity to show their work or perform.

"I have comfortable chairs and couches. I just want people to come in and have a coffee and listen to some music," Frammartino said.

"We would like people in Fort Erie to enjoy entertainment. There are just a few venues where people can go these days. But if you don't like bars, where can you go?"

Whether young or young at heart, Frammartino invites everyone to inquire about performing or displaying art at her store.

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

Sonya Frammartino recently opened an artisan shop on Jarvis St., and she wants to make it a community hub for artists to perform and host workshops.



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December 31: 9am-4pm
January 1: Closed

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Caslin vows change as new Regional chair

➤ Al Caslin vows to review all services and programs delivered by the Region

are no longer achieving the desired results. This exercise will involve a line-by-line review of the budget to ensure the taxpayers are getting good value for the money.

Caslin's winlast Thursday morning was a rejection of the old guard. Caslin, who was re-elected to a second term as a regional councillor for St. Catharines in October, is a virtual political neophyte when compared to the political pedigrees of the other candidates for chair.

The secret ballot election among the 30 regional councillors required a simple majority of 16 votes to win. In what might be considered a surprise by many, Caslin won on a single ballot, garnering 18 votes. He easily outdistanced a trio of former mayors — incumbent chair Gary Burroughs of Niagara-on-the-Lake (seven votes), Bill Hodgson of Lincoln (three votes) and Henry D'Angela of Thorold (two

votes).

The 54-year-old Caslin said the strength of his support bodes well for the new council.

"It's always great to have that kind of support, and I'm comforted with the fact I have that kind of support around the horseshoe," Caslin said. "I think it will make for a solid council and solid decisions in the upcoming four-year term."

The vote for chair came soon after the new council was sworn in and nominations were put forth and seconded. Hodgson was nominated by St. Catharines region Coun. Brian Heit and Lincoln Mayor Sandra Easton. Caslin was nominated by Selina Volpatti of Niagara Falls and Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs. Burroughs was nominated by rookie St. Catharines regional Coun. Debbie MacGregor and West Lincoln Mayor Doug Joyner. D'Angela was nominated by Thorold Mayor Ted Luciani and Heit.

Each of the candidates was then given five minutes to sway voters.

Caslin touted his leadership experience, noting he was the only candidate with 20 years manufacturing experience "with a global organization" and before that owned and operated a real estate business.

"I understand the needs of small business and what it takes to be successful."

Caslin said his master's degree in operations management will come in handy.

"Organizational effectiveness is one of my strengths. I rely on a balanced approach to setting clear expectations, developing and executing a plan and measuring those results."

Caslin said if elected chair his first order of business would "be to look inward, to ensure our organization is operating as efficiently as possible."

Caslin said he would push for the continued waiving of industrial development charges to new businesses and continued to press the Government of Ontario for regular, daily

GO rail service to Niagara.

Caslin was the last of the candidates to make his intentions known. He did not publicly declare he was seeking the chair position until Tuesday. Another candidate, Bruce Timms, announced in an e-mail to fellow regional councillors Wednesday that he was stepping aside and throwing his support to Caslin. Timms, Burroughs, D'Angela and Hodgson had taken part in a debate of candidate last week organized by eight Niagara chambers of commerce. Caslin said Thursday that although he had been considering a bid for chair since being re-elected Oct. 27, he was still mulling his decision at the time of the debate. In any case, he said, he had a prior commitment that night and would not have been able to participate.

Caslin, a GM employee for 20 years, most recently as facilities manager, said he was uncertain of his future with the automaker.

"There's lots to be discussed yet. This is new for me, so I'm going to have to take some time to have my discussions with GM,"

Caslin said.

Caslin said he does not see a council divided among political party lines.

"I definitely do not. My supporters are from all stripes of political background."

In his inaugural address to council late Thursday afternoon, Caslin repeated the themes of his speech prior to the vote for chair and thanked councillors for putting their trust in him.

"I intend to replay that trust with accountability and effective leadership," Caslin said. "As your regional chair I pledge to you an open door and an open mind, that will not let partisan thinking stand in the way of a good idea or the right thing to do. With strong leadership and honest partnership we will move Niagara Region forward."

Caslin said he would seek input from all councillors.

"This consultation will begin immediately. We will need to set aside our differences and come together to benefit those who sent us here."

Caslin moving on up to the chair position opens up a spot for a regional councillor from St. Catharines. The Region will leave the decision on how to fill the city's seventh regional councillor seat up to the City of St. Catharines, which in the past has opted to fill the position with the person who finished eight.

Eighth-place finisher Kelley Edgar said Thursday afternoon is willing. "As far as I'm concerned, I can't wait to get up there and get to work," Edgar said.

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Gary Burroughs

Burroughs disappointed, but not surprised

Rob Houle
QMI Agency Niagara

He made history, although not in the fashion he would like.

Gary Burroughs became the first Niagara Region chair seeking re-election to not regain the job.

Burroughs lost out last Thursday by a wide margin in a first-ballot vote as the first-order of business for the Region's new council. Burroughs finished second to Al Caslin of St. Catharines, 18 votes to seven.

Burroughs, who left chambers quickly at the conclusion of the meeting, said he was disappointed he lost, although not surprised.

Burroughs said he did not see the loss as a personal reflection on his leadership.

"I'm looking on it as a change in the way politics happens at our little local level, and no more than that," Burroughs said. "It used to be 30 people just making a decision without a lot of pre-work done. So I don't take it personally. I actually wouldn't do anything in the last four years any differently than I did. I feel good about what has been accomplished."

Asked if he thought partisan politics came into play, Burroughs was non-committal.

"That will be up to the people who voted for Mr. Caslin — I don't even want to go there."

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TASC members rock the Sanctuary stage

Nancy Kacur
Special to The Times

Saturday saw The Sanctuary Centre for the Arts rock as members of Therapy and Alternatives for Special Children and Adults with disabilities performed a number of rock tunes along with some Christmas favorites for a crowd of 75 in attendance.

The members of 'The Basement Rockers' have various disabilities all with a keen interest in music formed the group and have been practicing every week in the basement of one of the members homes.

The group supported by Major Progressions Music Therapy with the enthusiastic direction of Music Therapists Mallory Warkentin and Laura Belet provided members of TASC Niagara the opportunity to be in an all-disabled band and play to a sold out concert at the

Sanctuary.

The Basement Rockers band currently has six members and has room for four more.

The cost to provide this type of program is currently funded by the individuals. We are looking for sponsors to help with the cost of \$250 per person per eight-week session.

TASC Niagara provides personal support for some individuals and provides programs for just over 60 people currently.

We had the opportunity to open this program to a select group that were able to secure funding but feel that many others would benefit from this experience.

During the time they began eight weeks ago they have grown in many ways: self worth, self esteem, performing in front of others, friendship and musically.

The audience was as



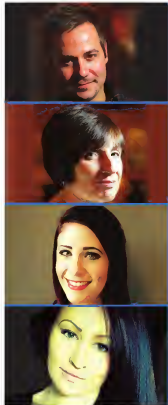
TASC performed on Saturday night at the Sanctuary Centre for the Arts in Ridgeway. From left are Abby Barnhart, Steven Bacynski, Evan Fiorella, Joey Neumann, Andrew Nugteren, and Nathan Kacur and music therapist Laura Belet on keyboard.

enthusiastic as the performers and rose several times to give the performers a standing ovation. The

group plans to continue and have high hopes that others will be able to join in the experience.

Visit the TASC Niagara page on Facebook to see the group at the Sanctuary and look to helping them

and others continue this amazing journey. Visit www.tascniagara.com to donate via paypal.



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Bytes for bites



SARAH FERGUSON Fort Erie Times

CSN Tech Centre in Fort Erie would like to thank the community for donating 2,724 pounds of food to Community Outreach Program Erie. The local business offered a contest called Bytes for Bites. The contest began last month and the person who gave the most donations received a \$350 tablet. From left is store owner Ed Smith, Mandy Crosby, of COPE, and store manager Jenn Prinslak.

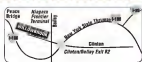
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EMERGENCY TELEPHONE INFORMATION 905-871-1600

RADIO EMERGENCY INFORMATION 91.7 FM - 105.7 FM - 610 AM



Public Notice

Holiday Hours - Municipal Offices

The Town of Fort Erie's municipal offices will be operating on a holiday schedule as follows;

Wednesday, December 24	8:30 a.m. - 12 Noon
Thursday, December 25 and Friday, December 26	Closed
Monday December 29 through Thursday January 1, 2015	Closed
Friday January 2, 2015	8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

A payment drop box is available outside Town Hall.



Looking for a part-time job? This job offers Christmas, Easter, Statutory holidays and summer vacations off! Have you considered becoming a SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD?

The Town of Fort Erie invites applications for temporary, part-time opportunities as a Spare School Crossing Guards for the period of **January 2015 to June 2015**. Qualified applicants must have an Ontario Secondary School Diploma or equivalent, or documented experience. The job requires sensory acuity and the ability to remain on your feet for long stretches at a time. You must be reliable, able to travel to your assigned crossing and willing to work outdoors in what are sometimes adverse weather conditions. Spare Crossing Guards fill in for Regular Crossing Guards and will be paid one hour for each available day in addition to all hours worked. 2015 hourly rate of pay for a Spare Crossing Guard is **\$12.87**.

Preference will be given to persons who have experience as School Crossing Guards. Offers of employment are conditional upon the candidate providing the Town with a satisfactory police background check and evaluation of physical abilities. Successful applicants must also be available for and attend training. Interested applicants are invited to submit a resume, in confidence to

Human Resources - Competition # 30-2014

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1 Municipal Centre Drive
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(905) 871-1600 ext. 2306 Fax: (905) 871-4022

email: sward@forterie.on.ca

THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING APPLICATIONS IS 4:00 P.M., MONDAY DECEMBER 29, 2014

Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. The evaluation process may include a practical assessment. Personal information is collected under the Municipal Act, 2001 to determine employment suitability. The Town of Fort Erie is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation is available to candidates upon request.

NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION AND PUBLIC MEETING

ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT 873 EDGEWATER ROAD

OWNERS: ANDREW AND CHRISTINE BURKE

AGENT: ROBERT A. SHEPARD

Application: 350309-0394

DATE: JANUARY 12, 2015
TIME: 6:00 PM
LOCATION: TOWN HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

LOCATION OF SUBJECT LANDS

PROPOSED CHANGE

A Zoning By-law Amendment application has been received for the property located on the south side of Edgewater Road between Rose Avenue and Knoll Road with the municipal address 112 Edgewater Road. The subject property is zoned Waterfront Residential (WR) Zone and Hazard H Zone in accordance with Zoning By-law 129-00. The applicant requests permission to construct a single detached dwelling located 22.5 metres from the 1m-100' year flood elevation as determined by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, whereas Section 6.47 of Comprehensive Zoning By-law No. 129-00 requires a minimum setback of 30 metres (56.43 feet). The applicant requests permission to construct the dwelling with a maximum height of 10.2 metres whereas Section 16.3 of the town's Comprehensive Zoning By-law permits a maximum height of 8.0 metres. The applicant also requests permission to construct an accessory structure within 3.0 metres of the front lot line whereas Section 16.5 requires a minimum setback of 7.5 metres.



MORE INFORMATION

For further information please contact: Matt Kamahar, Senior Development Planner at (905) 871-1600 extension 2507 or mkamahar@town.forterie.on.ca. A copy of the Information Report will be available to the public by 5:00 PM on January 7th, 2015.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Input on the proposed Zoning By-law Amendments is welcome and encouraged. You can provide input by speaking at the public meeting or by making a written submission to the Town. Please note that unless you do one of the above now, you may not be able to appeal the decision later.

The information report will be available in the Council agenda portion of the Town's Web Site: www.town.forterie.on.ca or from the Community and Development Services Department.

WRITTEN SUBMISSION

To provide input in writing, or to request written notice of the decision of the Zoning By-law Amendment, please send a letter to the Interim Town Clerk, Tom Mather, 1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie, Ontario, L2A 2S6 or an email to tomather@town.forterie.on.ca.

PLANNING ACT LEGAL NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

The Town of Fort Erie has not yet made a decision regarding this application.

After considering any written comments and the comments from the public meeting, Council-in-Committee at this meeting will consider a recommendation report on the Zoning By-law Amendment application.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Fort Erie in respect of the proposed Zoning By-law amendment before the By-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Town of Fort Erie to the Ontario Municipal Board.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Fort Erie in respect of the proposed Zoning By-law amendment before the By-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board, unless in the opinion of the Board, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

If you wish to be notified of the suspension of the Zoning By-law amendment, you must make a written request to Tom Mather, Interim Town Clerk and such request should include the name and address to which such notice should be sent.

Dated this 18th day of December, 2014

Tom Mather, Interim Town Clerk

Richard P. Brady, MA, MCP, RPP, Director of Community and Development Services

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TOWN OF FORT ERIE 2014 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PUBLIC SKATING

Leisureplex:

Saturday, December 20th 2:00 – 3:30pm \$1.50/Person

Tim Hortons Holiday Free Skate –

Monday – December 22nd – 2:00 – 3:30pm

Tim Hortons Holiday Free Skate –

Tuesday – December 23rd – 2:00 – 3:30pm

Saturday, December 27th 2:00 – 3:30pm \$1.50/Person

Tim Hortons Holiday Free Skate –

Monday – December 29th – 2:00 – 3:30pm

Tim Hortons Holiday Free Skate –

Tuesday – December 30th – 2:00 – 3:30pm

Tim Hortons Holiday Free Skate –

Friday – January 2nd – 2:00 – 3:30pm

Saturday, January 3rd 2:00 – 3:30pm \$1.50/Person

Crystal Ridge Arena:

Friday, December 19th 8:00 – 10:00pm \$2.50/Person

Sunday, December 21st 1:00 – 2:30pm \$1.50/Person

Tim Hortons Holiday Free Skate –

Tuesday – December 23rd – 2:00 – 3:30pm

Rcbhs - Free Skate –

Tuesday – December 27th – 1:00 – 2:30pm

Sunday, December 28th 1:00 – 2:30pm \$1.50/Person

Tim Hortons Holiday Free Skate –

Monday – December 29th – 2:00 – 3:30pm

Tim Hortons Holiday Free Skate –

Tuesday – December 30th – 2:00 – 3:30pm

Friday, January 2nd 8:00 – 10:00pm \$2.50/Person

Sunday, January 4th 1:00 – 2:30pm \$1.50/Person



INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Your 2014

Capital Construction Program

Project:	Waterloo St. Sanitary Sewer Replacement
Project Scope:	The work includes of the replacement of approx. 430m of 525mm diameter sanitary sewer from Bertie Street to Catharine Street and 60m of 250mm sanitary sewer on Murray Street. Replacement will include all associated manholes and service lateral connections. Reinstatement works will include for trench restoration only.
Important Dates:	Condition Inspections Start: January 6, 2015 Construction Start: January 5, 2015 Tentative Construction Completion: March 2015 (weather dependent)
Contractor:	Centennial Construction & Contracting (Niagara) Inc. Joe Candeloro, Project Coordinator, 905-708-0123 ext. 47
Contract Administration:	Kerry T. Howe Engineering Limited Roger Beaulieu, Project Manager - 905-688-6550 Ext. 228 Brett Telepanich, Construction Manager/Inspector - 905-327-1078
Town Staff:	George Stojanovic, P. Eng. Senior Engineer/Project Manager 905-871-1600, Ext. 2413
Pre-Construction Survey:	CL Inspection, a pre-construction survey company has been hired by Centennial Construction, to conduct internal and external house inspections to establish the pre-construction condition of your home. The purpose of this inspection is to determine and document the extent of any cracking and/or other damage that exists prior to the commencement of the construction activities. This information can then be used to determine the extent of the Contractor's responsibility in the unlikely event that damages occur to your property during construction. The representatives will have identification with them. Please note only homes immediately adjacent to the construction works will have an internal and external house inspection. For all others property owners in the vicinity of the construction works, this notice is for information only. At times there may be some inconvenience to you during the construction period and we respectfully request your patience and co-operation during this period.
What to Expect:	Traffic: Due to the scope of the work involved, Catharine Street will have lane closures. Detour: Please be advised that Waterloo Street (between Bertie Street and Catharine Street) will be CLOSED to through traffic (local access will be permitted) and that DETOUR ROUTES are effective
Please contact the Town Project Manager should you have any additional questions or require further clarification. Thank you for your patience and co-operation. Please keep this notice for future reference.	

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE

NOTICE - 2015 BUDGET MEETING SCHEDULE

ONTARIO MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001 SECTION 291

Notice is hereby given of Council's intention to hold meetings for the 2015 budget in Council Chambers beginning at 5:30 pm on the following dates:

COUNCIL-IN-BUDGET-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Meeting #1 – Wednesday, January 14, 2015 - Water & Wastewater Budget

Meeting #2 – Wednesday, January 28, 2015 - Capital Budget & Forecast

Meeting #3 – Wednesday, February 18, 2015 - Library & EDTC Budget

Meeting #4 – Wednesday, March 4, 2015 - General Levy Operating Budget

Meeting #5 – Wednesday, March 11, 2015 - (If Required)

All Council-in-Budget Committee meetings are open to the public.

BUDGET BY-LAW DATES

Monday, February 9, 2015 - Water and Wastewater Budget and Rules By-law

Monday, March 23, 2015 - Capital Budget By-law

– General Levy Budget By-law

*All meetings 5:30pm subject to change

what's up! Fort Erie



DEC 31



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June Carter, and
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With special guest, Fort Erie Legion's
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Tickets are \$25 per couple, or \$15 each.
Light refreshments will be provided... see you there!
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY
BOB SPRATT
is turning 80 on
December 26th, 2014
Family and Friends are invited to join him at his
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Best Wishes Only
HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Straight South
Join Steve & Kathleen
To ring the New Year
At RCL Branch 230
Starting Wednesday Dec 31, 2014 at 8:30 pm
Ending Thursday Jan 1, 2015 at 2:00 am
Great Music, late night buffet, champagne at midnight,
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Only \$40 per person or \$70 per couple in advance only
For tickets call RCL 230 at 905-894-5927
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Are you looking to send a
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last minute gift idea?

Give us a call to be included in our
2014 holiday Greetings

**905-871-3100 x 524202 or
524205**



Be wary of door-to-door salesmen, say police

Niagara Regional Police issued a warning on Monday about door-to-door fraudsters.

Police say they have received a number of complaints recently about door-to-door sales people. Although some legitimate business do try to find customers by going door-to-

door, police say, there are some who misled people "often claiming to be affiliated with a well-known utility provider or local government department."

Others demand a cash deposit for work that is never done, and still others appear to target senior citizens.

Police say the complaints range from civil disputes to actual fraud.

The Ontario Consumer Protection Act provides home owners rights when make purchases, Police are recommending home owners refer to the act at http://www.sse.gov.on.ca/mcs/en/Pages/Door_to_

Door_Sales_Rights.aspx. Police are also reminding home owners they do not have to let door-to-door sales people into their home for any reason, provide them copies of your utility bills and should not allow themselves to be pressured into any deal or contract.



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Sun. January 18, 2015

Fort Erie Residents - \$12.00

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**Tickets go on
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Bouquet for firefighters

A bouquet for all the firefighters who collected donations at a local store on Saturday. The thought of a child without a gift to open on Christmas Day makes me shudder. I hope with all my heart that your drive was a success. I've been blessed and pay it forward with every opportunity I get. I just want to thank you for all that you do to give back to the community, too.

Bouquet for a local church

A bouquet for all the parishioners of Historic St. John's Anglican Church Ridgmount as they prepare to celebrate the 175 anniversary of this quaint country church whose history goes back to pioneer times. 2015 will be a busy year filled with many commemorative activities to be enjoyed with the surrounding community.

Brick for a person who hit a

car
A brick for whoever backed into my car on Nov. 12 at a local restaurant. Because you hit my car, it cost me \$350 to repair the damage. A note on my window saying you were at least sorry would have been kind.

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Brick for rude parents

A brick for the hockey parents who continually bad mouth their children's hockey coaches in the stands, loud enough so that the coaches' wives can hear. It's extremely hurtful and rude. The coaches (our husbands) spend four nights a week volunteering their time with your children because they truly love this sport and sharing their knowledge about it.

Bouquet for hockey teams

A bouquet for our local Fort Erie hockey teams in the tournament this past weekend. We are all so extremely proud of the way each and every team played. Way to go Greater Fort Erie teams!

Bouquet for service group

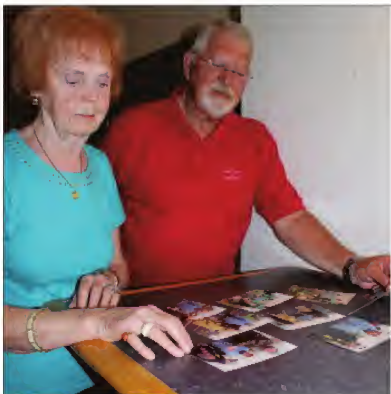
A bouquet for the Fort Erie Optimist Club Opti-Mrs for yet another wonderful display at their Christmas Fantasy Land! The Christmas season can't start without a trip to see Santa and making cookies with Mrs. Claus!

Brick for bad roads

A brick for whoever is responsible for the condition of Dominion Road. Residents shouldn't be forced to go to Garrison Road to get a smooth ride from Fort Erie to

Ridgeway.

Send your bricks &
bouquets to:
sarah.ferguson@
sunmedia.ca or mail
them to Fort Erie Times,
336 Central Ave., Fort
Erie Ont., L2A 3T6



FILE PHOTO Fort Erie Times

The Fort Erie Sports Wall of Fame honoured former high school football coaches from Fort Erie Secondary School and Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School in June. Organizers Cathy Dennahower, chairman of the Sports Wall of Fame nominating committee, and Kinsmen president Larry Graber look at sports memorabilia from over 60 years of high school football history in Fort Erie. They are seeking nominations for next year's ceremony.

Organizer seeks nominations for Fort Erie Sports Wall of Fame

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

The Fort Erie Kinsmen are seeking nominations for next year's Fort Erie Sports Wall of Fame.

Each June, the Fort Erie Kinsmen hosts the ceremony that recognizes players, coaches and sports builders that have made a significant contribution to sports in the community.

"We want people to be recognized for their contributions to the community and we encourage people to submit their stories to us," Kinsmen president Larry Graber said.

"Fort Erie has a huge history in sports at the high school level and the minor level. Some individuals have even gone on to play professionally."

Nomination forms can be picked up in the main office at the Fort Erie Leisureplex. The deadline to submit a nomination is Wednesday, Dec. 31.

Nominees must have excelled at local sports, gone on to play at a professional level and contributed to the town as a coach, mentor or leader.

Applications for nominations must include a photo and as much information as possible about the nominee.

"We're looking for everything from newspaper clippings, stats and an outline of accomplishments," Graber said. "The more information we have, the better it is for the selection committee when it sits down to select the inductees."

Graber said members of the Fort Erie Sports Wall of Fame Nominating Committee take

great care when the recipients are chosen to be inducted into the Sports Wall of Fame.

"There's a lot of behind-the-scenes work," Graber said. "The committee meets several times and goes over the applications before a final decision is made. The nominees are selected by the end of February and notified."

This year's class inductees included Bill Neale, an amateur Olympian and professional skater, Doug Reid, an amateur and professional hockey player and Travis Hill, an amateur and professional lacrosse player. Also included in this year's class of inductees are 21 Fort Erie Secondary School and Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School football coaches.

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Meteors 'played well' despite loss to Corvairs

Cathy McCabe
Special to The Times

The Fort Erie Meteors were overcome by the Caledonia Corvairs on Saturday night at the Leislerplex.

The Fort Erie Junior B team lost 5-3, despite having a two-goal lead at beginning of the third.

Kevyn Dobrint, assistant coach of the Meteors, said he thought the team played very well.

"I think the boys came to play tonight, unfortunately we don't have the horses that [the Corvairs] do and it just took its toll having back to back nights with them."

The Meteors played the Corvairs in Caledonia on Friday night losing 3-0.

"I think basically we just ran out of gas," Dobrint said, adding that "it was just a collapse, a physical collapse."

Caledonia's Kyle Taney scored at 5:54 in the first despite being shorthanded. The Meteors' Wade Kenny tied the game at 8:21.

Dakota Miskolczi gave the Meteors the lead at 11:36 in the second.

Holden Garland increased the Meteors' lead with a power-play goal 20 seconds into the third period, but the Corvairs' Luke Sinclair answered back with a goal 28 seconds later.

Taney tied the game for the Corvairs at 15:19 and Connor Patton gave Caledonia the lead at 18:26. The Meteors' attempt at a goal with 46 seconds left in the third was ruled a no goal because the net was knocked loose.

Dobrint said, "I asked Kenny what happened. He said the puck was in the net before the net was knocked off, but it's not the way they saw it."

The Corvairs then took advantage of the Meteors' empty net and Taney scored with 35 seconds left in the game.

Both teams incurred 14 infractions with the Corvairs spending 45 minutes in the penalty box and the Meteors spending 30 minutes.

Caledonia registered 38 shots on goal and Fort Erie registered 15.

The Meteors will be playing an away game against the Thorold Blackhawks on Dec. 17 at 7:07 p.m.



Meteors' Riley Mocha tries to keep the puck away from Corvairs' Matthew Hore.

CATHY MCCABE Special to The Times

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DECEMBER 18**KNITTING FOR YOUTH**

Ladies of the Bowen Road Women's Institute share their expertise and heritage in this free public program. They encourage all young people who would like to learn knitting to visit the Crystal Ridge branch of the library on Thursday evenings at 6:30. They will provide all the needles and yarn needed—you bring your curiosity. Fort Erie Public Library Crystal Ridge Branch. 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

DECEMBER 22**TURKEY DINNER**

The Ridgeway Lions Club with the Lighthouse Diner Soup Kitchen are hosting a free turkey dinner for the community at the Crystal Ridge Community Centre, 39 Ridge Rd. South, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Free transit tickets available for those in need at South Niagara Life Centre, 143 Gilmore Rd.; The Salvation Army, 255 Gilmore Rd.; Community Outreach Program Erie, 32 Dufferin St.; both Avoles in Ridgeway and Crystal Beach. Tickets must be validated at the Crystal

Ridge Community Centre to return on transit.

DECEMBER 22**MUSIC: THE NUTCRACKER**

Angels and sugarplums, candy canes and mice—a magic prince, a winsome young girl, a mysterious old man and a Christmas tree that grows and grows and George Balanchine's joyous and beloved holiday fantasy lights up the screen for Christmas in a dazzling feature film. George Balanchine's "The Nutcracker," the first feature-length live-action film of the world's most beloved ballet, combines

the classic beauty of the New York City Ballet stage production with the sparkling talent of contemporary young film star Macaulay Culkin. Tickets are \$3. Fort Erie Public Library Centennial Branch, 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tickets are \$3 per person.

ONGOING**DROP IN SOCIAL**

Drop in for a warm beverage, some lively conversation and occasional crafts and speakers every other Tues., 10-12 noon. Bridges Community Health Centre Fort Erie.

1485 Garrison Road. DIABETES HOT TOPICS

Topics to help people self-manage their diabetes. Thurs. Feb. 5, 3-4pm Diabetes and Heart Health; Mar. 5, 3-4pm, Keeping your Feet Healthy. Bridges Community Health Centre Fort Erie, 1485 Garrison Road.

SMOKING CESSATION

A two-week workshop designed to help you quit smoking, including a five week supply of nicotine replacement therapy to eligible participants. New enrollments are offered the second Tuesday of every month, 6-7:30pm. Bridges Community Health Centre, 1485 Garrison Road. Call to register at 905-871-7621 ext. 2234 or email info@bridgeschc.ca.

PARENTING NETWORK GROUP

A monthly support group for caregivers of children, youth or

adults with autism, a developmental disability, or mental health issues the last Wednesday of every month, 6-8pm. Bridges Community Health Centre, 1485 Garrison Road. Call to register at 905-871-7621 ext. 2234 or email info@bridgeschc.ca.

WALKING GROUP

A weekly walking group every Monday and Thursday, 9:00am at the Fort Erie Leisureplex. Bridges Community Health Centre, 1485 Garrison Road. Call to register at 905-871-7621 ext. 2234 or email info@bridgeschc.ca.

CHRONIC PAIN MANAGEMENT

Learn to use new coping tools or strategies for managing your chronic pain Tues. Jan. 27 to Mar. 17, 1:30-3:00pm. Bridges Community Health Centre, 1485 Garrison Road. Call to register at 905-871-7621 ext. 2234 or email info@bridgeschc.ca.

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Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

All claims against the estate of Elizabeth ANGER, late of the Town of Fort Erie in the Regional Municipality of Niagara who died on or about the 19th day of October, 2014, must be filed with the undersigned Estate Trustees on or before the 25th day of December, 2014; thereafter, the undersigned will distribute the assets of the said estate having regard only to the claims then filed.

DATED at Fort Erie this 1st day of December, 2014.

Shirley Marie SAWYER, Estate Trustee, by her Solicitor, HIGAN LAW FIRM, 29 Jarvis Street, P.O. Box 68, Fort Erie, Ontario, L2A 5M6. 905-871-4440

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

All claims against the estate of MILRED EDNA MILLER, late of the Town of Fort Erie in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, who died on or about the 25th day of October, 2014, must be filed with the undersigned Estate Trustee on or before the 31st day of December, 2014; thereafter, the undersigned will distribute the assets of the said estate having regard only to the claims then filed.

DATED at Fort Erie this 1st day of December, 2014.

STEPHEN CARL MILLER Estate Trustee, by his Solicitor, HIGAN LAW FIRM, 29 Jarvis Street, P.O. Box 68, Fort Erie, Ontario, L2A 5M6. 905-871-4440

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Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries



BEAM, Allen - Peacefully in his sleep at home on Wednesday December 10, 2014 at the age of 69. Loving husband of the late Darlene (2010). Dear father of Marlene (Wally) Hadden, Charlene Beam, Allan Beam (Sharon) and Kim (Gregg) Grant. Cherished grandfather of Matthew and Allison Hadden, Erik and Kaitlyn Shubins, Vanessa and Ashley Grant. Great-grandfather of Sophie Taylor. Brother of Kathleen (Bob) Cuffler and the late Edward Beam (2012). Uncle of Ronald and Kyrille. Arrangements entrusted to **WILLIAMS FUNERAL SERVICES** 722 Ridge Rd. North, Ridgeway. A graveside service was held at Ridgeway Memorial Gardens on Saturday December 13th at 9:30 a.m. For those who wish, memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Diabetes Association.

Marr - Anguish, Barbara - Barbara passed away at the Greater Niagara General Hospital on Sunday December 14th, 2014 at the age of 55. Cherished wife of John. Proud mother of Chris and Justin. Much loved sister of Jayne (Jim) Carman, Larry (Sharon) Marr, Kate (Mike) Strik and Linda (Gerie) Schutt. Also survived by her brothers in law, Tom (Cathy) Anguish and Roy Anguish and many nieces and nephews. Barbara was a registered dietitian and began her career at the Douglas Memorial Hospital. In 2000-present, she worked in the long-term senior care facilities for the Region of Niagara. She volunteered as the treasurer of the Navy League Lake Erie Shore Branch and in 2011 was awarded an Environmental Award by the Region of Niagara for her efforts in helping to keep Fort Erie beautiful. She enjoyed traveling, cruises and shows. **Benner Funeral Services**, 1105 Berner Ave., Fort Erie entrusted with arrangements. The family will receive friends on Friday December 19th from 2-4 p.m. and again on Saturday from 11 am until the time of funeral in the Chapel at 1 p.m. Cremation will follow. If so desired, donations to the M.S. Society or the Canadian Mental Health Association would be appreciated by the family.

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BROOKHUIS, Vida Maxine (nee Miller) - With great sadness, the family announces the passing of Vida on Saturday December 6th after a short illness. She is predeceased by her husband, Andrew Brookhuis; partner Wally Ansler; parents Maxine and Chris Miller, and brother's Doug and Milton. She is survived by her children, Kevin (Valerie) and Karen, grandchildren Connor and Corinne, and siblings Bernice Jones and Edmund (Paulette) Miller. Vida was born and raised in Fort Erie, Ontario, and was a graduate of Fort Erie High School and the Greater Niagara General Hospital School of Nursing. She was dedicated to the nursing profession and remained in contact with her fellow graduates throughout her life. After her marriage to Andrew, she lived in Toronto, Uxbridge and Barrie, until Andrew's death in 1998. In 2005 she relocated with Wally to Elliott Lake, where they spent many happy years enjoying both the scenery and an active social life. The family would like to thank the staff at Renaissance Retirement Residence in Newmarket, as well as to Dr. Cindy So, for their excellent and compassionate care during Vida's illness. Thank you as well to all of her family and friends whose visits, calls, videos and cards brought her much comfort. At Vida's request, no formal service or visitation is planned. If desired, donations in her memory to the Strohach Regional Cancer Centre at Southlake would be appreciated.

LANCHESTER, Wilda Jane - Passed away peacefully with family by her side on Tuesday December 9, 2014 at the Greater Niagara General Hospital at the age of 95. Beloved and devoted wife of Earl for over 60 years. Dear mother of Tom and Linda, she will be fondly remembered by Gerry and Rick, Adore and loving grandmother of Stephanie Marie, Melanie Jane, Thomas and Travis. Wilda enjoyed dancing with Earl where they were known as Twisting Wilda and Hurricane Earl. She enjoyed many wonderful years of Thoroughbred racing at various U.S. and Canadian racetracks. Cremation has taken place. Arrangements entrusted to **WILLIAMS FUNERAL SERVICES** 722 Ridge Rd. North, Ridgeway.

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Obituaries

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FRETZ - CLIMENHAGE, Miriam Elva - On Thanksgiving, November 27, 2014, Miriam Elva Fretz-Climenhage peacefully passed away in her home in Los Angeles, California. She was 88 years old. Loving wife of the late Paul Roger Fretz (1947 - 1992), the late Clarence Helise (1993 - 1993) and the late Ernest Climenhage (1994 - 2012). Loving mother of Roger (Linda) Fretz, Richard (Laurel) Fretz, Gretchen (Rich) Weiler and Rachel (Doug) Mathews. Cherished Nana of Kimberly (Quico) Fernandes, Ryan (Shannon) Fretz, Rebecca (Matthew) Speth, Lynne Fretz, Larina (Brad) Lamb, Michelle Fretz, Alexandra (Joseph) Swanson, Miles Mathews, Jacqueline Weiler, Jillian Weiler and Paul Weiler. Proud Great Nana of Clay, Reed and Olive Fretz, Dylan, Hailey, Ethan and Baby Boy Fernandes, Owen and Ryan Speth, Kyle Lamb and Isaac Lamb, and Happy Swanson. Miriam was the dear sister to Kathryn (Al) Stockley, Howard (Jean) Fretz, Lester (Mary) Fretz, Lamar (Eileen) Fretz, Hubert (Bevly) Fretz, and Kenneth (Lilli) Fretz. Beloved sister-in-law to Joy (Clint) Riehl, Eldon (Dorothy) Fretz, Armand (Mary) Fretz, Lloyd (Marie) Fretz and dear aunt to many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by her brother Leroy (Margie) Fretz and her parents Howard John and Elva Margaret (Sherk) Fretz. The family will have a private service on Monday, December 15, in California, and a Memorial Service at the Vinefield Memorial Church in Vineland, Ontario on April 11, 2015. Miriam was a school teacher, a Missionary to Brazil, an artist, a poet, and a gifted and talented homemaker. In lieu of flowers, donations to World Partners, the overseas division of The Missionary Church where Miriam and Paul served as missionaries, would be appreciated. Please send to David Mann @ World Partners, P.O. Box 9127, Fort Wayne, IN 46899-9127.

OPATOVSKY, Albert Joseph - peacefully in his sleep at his residence on Saturday, December 13, 2014 in his 81st year. Beloved husband of Margaret Opatovsky (nee Kennedy), dear father of Albert James and Keith (Teresa), Cherished "My Grandpa" of A.J. Loving brother of Fran Fretz, Winn (Maureen), James (Toni), John (Eun Young), David (Barb). Fondly remembered by his in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins and his many friends. All who knew Albert were favoured with his big-hearted, generous spirit. He was a tireless supporter and fearless advocate for family, friends, children and all who he loved, and he loved many. The Opatovsky family will receive visitors at the **DAVIDSON FUNERAL HOME**, 135 Clarence St. Port Colborne on Thursday December 18, 2014 from 1-4 and 7-9 p.m. and at the Crystal Ridge Community Centre, 99 Ridge Road South, Crystal Beach on Friday December 19, 2014 from 10 - 11 a.m. A Service to Celebrate the life of the late Albert Opatovsky will follow at 11:00 a.m. with Joy Kennedy officiating. Cremation will follow. If so desired, memorial donations may be made to an educational trust fund for Albert's grandson, Albert Joshua Opatovsky. Online guest register and condolences available at www.davidsonfuneralhome.com



SAEIVA, Dominic - Passed away suddenly on Thursday December 11th, 2014 at the age of 56. Cherished husband of Giuseppina. Proud father of Pasquale (Brianne) and Josie Saeiva. Loving grandfather of Luca Saeiva, Emilio missed brother of departed brother Giuseppe (Diane) of Buffalo, Frank (Anita) Salvatore (Kim), Angelo, Nancy (Victor) Tovar and Vince (Melissa) Saeiva all of Fort Erie. Also survived by his nieces and nephews and many friends. Predeceased by his parents, Pasquale and Giuseppina and his brother Gino. **BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES**, 1105 Benner Ave., Fort Erie entrusted with arrangements. The family will receive friends on Thursday December 18th from 4 - 8 pm. Funeral Mass will be held on Friday morning at 11 am from St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church. Interment to follow in Greenwood Cemetery. Flower's gratefully declined.

A Loving Tribute

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In Memoriams

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HANES, Charles Henry Jr.
born March 19, 1932
died December 21, 2013

We lost our loving brother one year ago today.

An inspiration to us all in every single way.

Life seems so much more dreary without his warming smile. Though gone, he'll never be forgotten; mischievous fun, boundless laughter, indomitable spirit.

So thankful for these memories that soften the sharpest pain.

Loving him always and missing him terribly, his Mother Susan, Carol, Rosemary, Nora and Gaeann.



Happy 85th Birthday (December 15) to my wonderful Dad, Nick Sokach.
There is a party in heaven, full of love & laughter.

You are in my heart & my thoughts each & every day I know you watch over us & we love & miss you very much

Love always & forever
Your daughter Judy (Cyn), loving grandchildren Shawna (Rick), Travis (Evelyn) & great grandson Noah
Nicholas xoxo

We shall find peace. We shall hear angels, we shall see their spirit, with dreams - always

In Memoriams, to remember



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In Memoriams

In Memoriams

MARTIN, Stephen - In loving memory of our dear son, Stephen, who passed away December 23rd, 2000.

Those whom we love go out of sight,
But never out of mind.
They are cherished forever in the hearts,
of those they left behind.

— Always loved and never forgotten,
Mom & Dad.



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In Memoriams

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In Memoriams



NAPPER, Bradley -

September 26, 1960 - December 21, 2010

Brad, we woke up this morning and were surprised that you have been missing from our family circle for 4 years!!

But, it feels as if it were yesterday. We miss you so much, it is hard to talk about it.

You would be so happy to know that many more children have been added to our family circle. You would just love them all. We now have our Christmas get together at the Legion. They have fun there...

We all reminisce about past Christmas's with you.

We all love you and miss you so. Till we are together again forever.

Love, Mom, Dad & Family XO



Special
In Memoriams

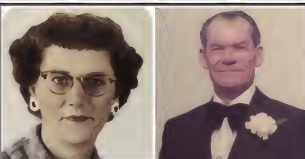
Special
In Memoriams

**Frank & Flora Piorkowski
Julia Innes (Piorkowski)**

In loving memory of my parents:
Frank (July 15, 2009)
And Flora (December 12, 1991)
And my sister, Julia (February 23, 2011)

Those we love remain with us
For love itself lives on,
And cherished memories never fade
Because a loved one is gone.
Those we love can never be
More than a thought apart,
For as long as there is memory,
They will live on in the heart.

Remembered with love,
Cathy, Oscar and Jennifer Elinger.



McEACHERN

Winona, December 1, 1964 and Dave, December 16, 1998

Loving and kind in all their ways,
Upright and just to the end of their days,
Sincere and kind in heart and mind,
What a beautiful memory they left behind.

Sadly missed and lovingly remembered by Beverly, Evelyn, Sharon, and families.



Silently, one by one,
in the infinite
meadows of heaven,
Blossomed the lovely
stars,
the forget-me-nots
of the angels.

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



IN 5 MINUTES

News and events – visually

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Ebola continues to spread

According to the latest WHO reports, there have been almost 18,000 reported cases of Ebola, resulting in more than 6,300 deaths. The UN has urged countries to send health-care workers, which are desperately needed to bring the outbreak to an end.

Total cases**New cases (Last 21 days from Dec. 10)****Total cases and deaths**

■ Cases ■ Deaths
As of Dec. 10, 2014

**17,942**
Cases**6,388**
Deaths**Among health-care workers**

■ Cases ■ Deaths



3 out of the 4
Ebola cases in
the U.S. were
among health-care workers

\$186.8 M
has been received by
WHO, with a further
\$31.9 M pledged

**AFRICA****Fatality rates****71%**

All patients in Guinea,
Liberia and
Sierra Leone

60%

Hospitalized patients
in Guinea, Liberia
and Sierra Leone

55%

Health-care workers

Image: Ebola

Sources: CDC;
WHO; United
Nations



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